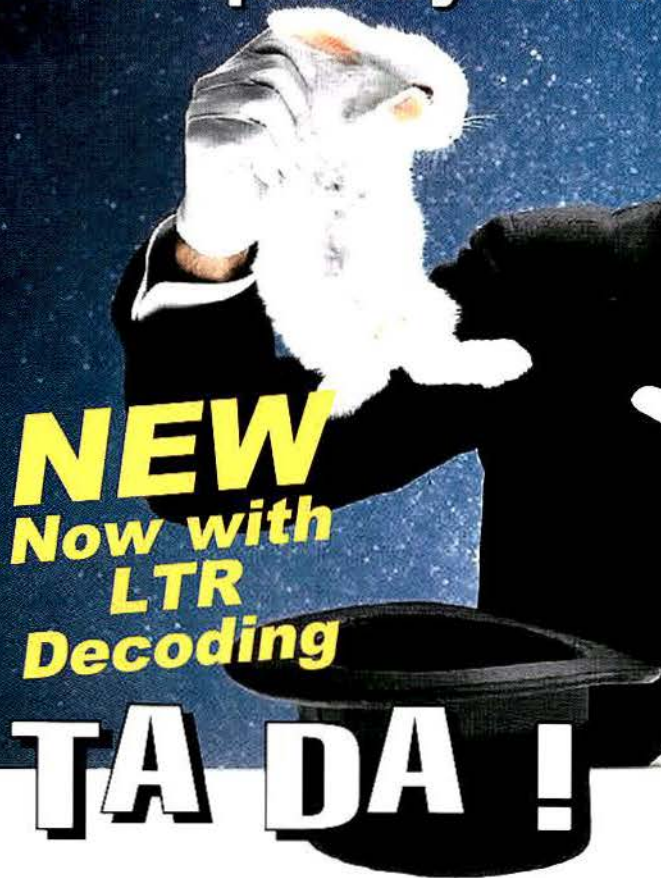


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APCO show guide



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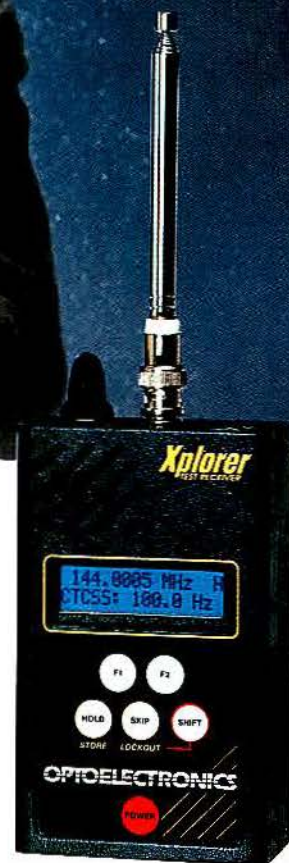
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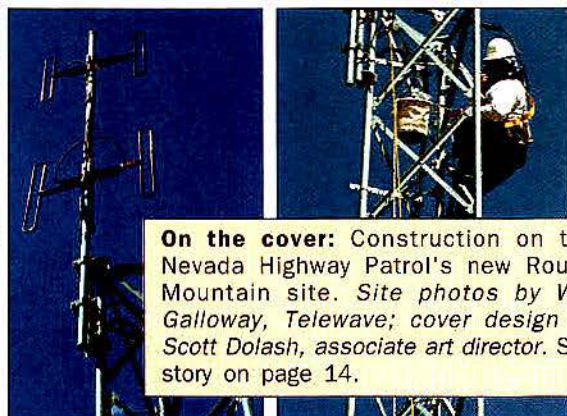
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On the cover: Construction on the Nevada Highway Patrol's new Round Mountain site. *Site photos by Will Galloway, Telewave; cover design by Scott Dolash, associate art director. See story on page 14.*

Photos by Will Galloway

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Model 423-86A-01-03

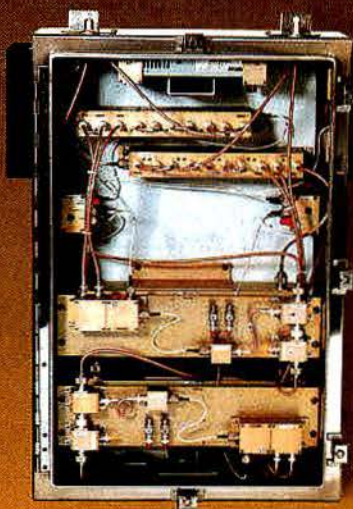
Pass Bandwidth: 821-824 MHz
Isolation @ 825 MHz: 35 dB
Gain: 14-15 dB
System Noise Figure: 3.0 dB
3rd O.I.P.: +40 dBm
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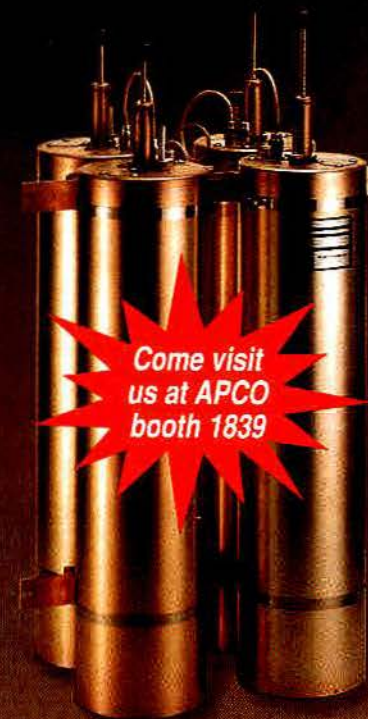
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'...And now for something completely different'



Normally in this column you don't read about changes in the way our magazine is presented. Let the changes speak for themselves, I say.

But the redesign in this issue reflects the work of so many people that it is appropriate to recognize their efforts.

Most of the creative work was done by Associate Art Director Scott Dolash, working with Corporate Creative Director Doug Coonrod, and with help from Associate Editor Nikki Chandler and Features Editor David Keckler. The concept of a complete redesign was first proposed by previous Art Director Kim Wicker.

Originally, I asked for a redesigned table of contents to better accommodate the issue we distribute each year at International Wireless Communications Expo. One thing led to another, and a plan began to emerge for a comprehensive redesign—thus, the catch phrase, "But all I wanted was a new table of contents!" every time the redesign moved another step forward.

Some design elements that we've left behind had been used since the beginning, when the first issue was designed in the fall of 1982 by Pieper International, a typesetting company in Littleton, CO. The oxford rules, for example, those parallel wide and narrow lines at the top and bottom of each editorial page, are history. Goodbye, oxford rules. And welcome to a new table of contents page, not to mention the rest of these pages—thanks to the Dolash touch.



I appreciate all the effort, gang,
but all I really wanted was a new
table of contents!

Don

Technically speaking

We've been blessed to have monthly editorial contributions since

January 1993 from one Harold Kinley, C.E.T., from Spartanburg, SC. At the end of this year, Harold will mark six years as our most prolific columnist, and at that time, he's going to cut back on that assignment we've come to appreciate so much.

Each year, as Harold would talk about whether to continue writing, he would say, "Well, I still have one more kid to get through college," referring to the big stack of money

we sent him each month. I guess it wasn't that big of a stack. But Harold enjoys writing, and with his experience as a technician and his ability to communicate, he is a natural for the column. Plus, he self-published a book about test instrumentation, and the column helps to spread the word.

At the end of this year, Harold will still have a son in college. His daughter graduated a year or two ago. I asked him, "Don't you think your daughter might want to go to graduate school?"

Harold has written some feature articles, too. That was him, driving the fire-suppression tractor pictured on the cover of the May 1993 issue. That issue included a feature explaining how to make a mobile rooftop antenna modification to prevent breakage from low-hanging objects.

George Dennis, editor of *Communications* magazine in 1993, said at the time, "The only thing we don't like about Harold is that you found him first!" (George is now director of competitor intelligence at Bellcore, Piscataway, NJ.)

Nice of George to give us credit, but actually, Harold came to us with the idea for the column. We had previously sought "technical tips" from dealers and technicians, but without much success. I once talked about Harold's column with a dealer, about how we previously couldn't find contributors at commercial service shops, and he offered this opinion: "Harold works for the state government," he said. "He doesn't have any competitors. I wouldn't want to reveal any technical methods that might give my competitors any help." Maybe that explains part of it, but I also happen to think that Harold is one-of-a-kind.

So, what now for "Technically Speaking"? With bimonthly contributions from Harold, we'll keep it going. I'd be interested in hearing from anyone who might want to write the column for the intervening months. Maybe the space will be taken by one person. Maybe the assignment will be rotated among a group of contributors. It can be difficult, sometimes, keeping to a monthly schedule, Harold says. But not impossible, as his track record indicates.

Let me know, won't you?

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email mrt@intertec.com.

Don Bishop

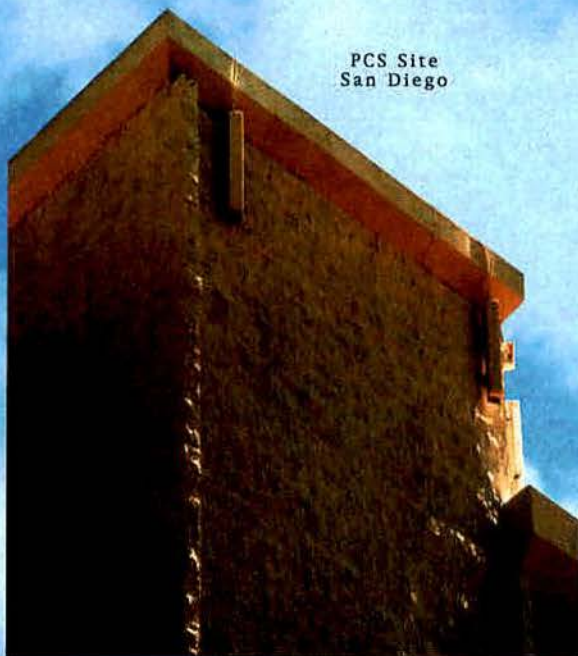
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August

9-13—International Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) National Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Convention Center, Albuquerque. Contact: 904-322-2500.

12—Radio Club of America breakfast meeting, Doubletree Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. Contact: Tracy Keller, 972-580-1911.

September

23-25—Personal Communications Showcase, sponsored by the Personal Communications Industry Association, Orange County Convention Center,

Orlando, FL. Contact: 703-739-0300.

23-25—PCS Latin America, sponsored by the Personal Communications Industry Association, Orlando, FL. Contact: Cathy Graham, 703-739-0300, ext. 3706.

October

12-14—Wireless I.T. '98, sponsored by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, Bally's Las Vegas, Las Vegas. Contact: 202-785-2842.

14-16—TelecomLatina, co-sponsored by *Mobile Radio Technology*, Miami Beach Conven-

tion Center, Miami. Contact: 1-800-288-8606.

19-21—RF Design Conference & Expo, sponsored by *RF Design Magazine*, San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA. Contact: 1-800-288-8606.

28-31—Industrial Telecommunications and USMSS Joint Annual Conference, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC. Contact: 703-528-5115.

November

4-5—ENTELEC and UTC Joint Seminar on Emerging Wireless Communications, Adams Mark Hotel, Houston. Contact: 202-872-0030; Web www.utc.org.



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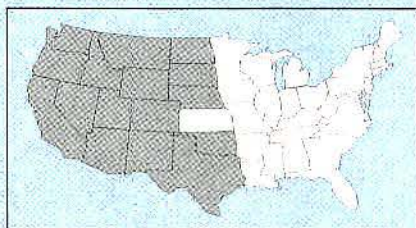
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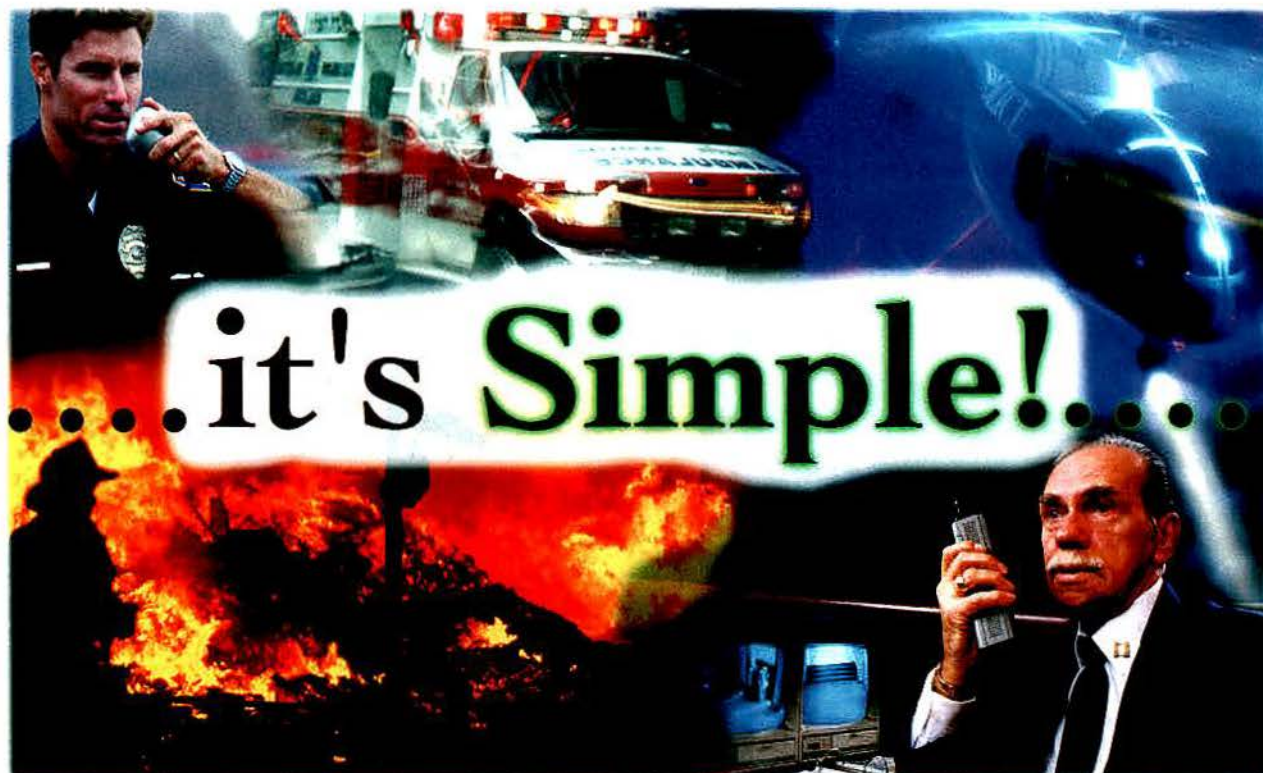
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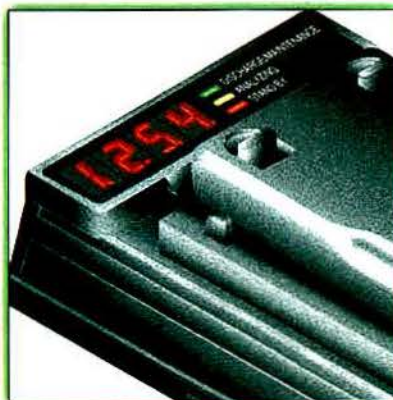


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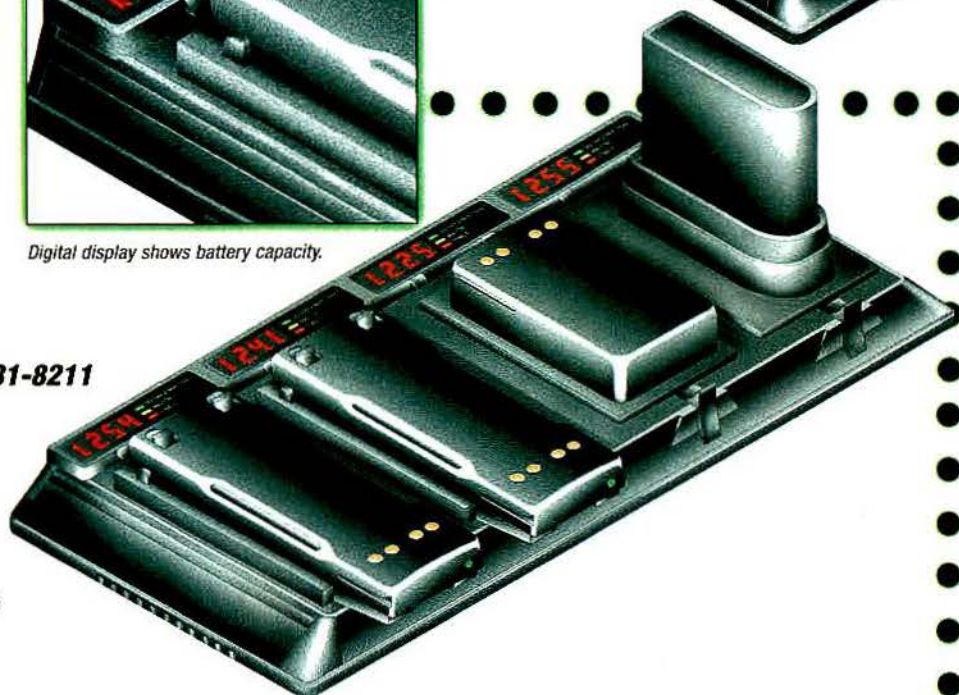
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Searching ...

When this issue of the revamped *MRT* arrives in your mailbox, most of our staff will be trying to avoid Bugs Bunny's notorious "left turn at Albuquerque"—that is, we'll be on our way to APCO 1998.

On a recent manufacturer visit, I recounted the story of my first five minutes on the exhibit floor at last year's show in Charlotte, N.C. As I began loading our table with copies of the magazine, an officer darted forward and snatched one up. He informed me that when he joined his department several years ago, equipped with a extremely applicable degree in art history, they looked at him and said "You're the new communications officer." Budgets being what they are in small departments, it was on-the-job training.

"Most of what I've learned I got by reading *MRT*," he said.

Needless to say, my step was lighter for the rest of the morning. That is what technical magazines are all about for editors—producing something useful for the readers.

The Charlotte episode was also on my mind while preparing this month's feature on communications interoperability (page

42). My interview with Tom Tolman of NLECTC—RM included discussion of how tough it is to get adequate funding for training (let alone radio equipment) in the majority of local and state agencies.

That officer I met was lucky—he made it to APCO last year. But there are dozens like him who may never join us there. The burden is on the participants and the radio trade press to dispense what we learn to those who can really use it. APCO does this through chapter activity. We do it through technical articles.

This is the time of year when I map out the technical feature content of *MRT* for the coming year. (If you've wondered, that's part of what I do here.) We have no trouble getting article proposals from equipment manufacturers. An editor with an open calendar is like a female moth that releases all its pheromones in one mist. It attracts all the males for miles around, and every one of them is a public relations agent. We actually do welcome their attention, but what we really need is to hear from you, the readers.

What do you need to know to make you a more effective communications manager, a more technically expert dealer, a more competitive service provider? If you're a technician, what do you need to know that's not covered in the manuals? Send your ideas to us by email at mrt@intertec.com or drop us a card. We'll listen and help you find answers.

Better still, if you *have* some of the answers to these questions, we may publish you. You don't have to be Arthur C. Clarke to write an article. Some of roughest articles to get ready for publication come from PhDs, and some of the easiest to shoot through to print come from straight-thinking, hands-on people who haven't written a paper since high school. (That's also part of what I do here—get your article ready to publish.)

What you have to say may be useful to the communications officer who won't make it to this year's show.

—D.A. Keckler, Features Editor

letters

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Anritsu

One world. One name. Anritsu.

Paved with good intentions

By Robert H. Schwaninger, Jr.

The FCC and the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA) announced a new era of cooperation in April for the resolution of interference complaints, whereby ITA will stand as the first line of defense in resolving problems between private operators. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) released by the FCC claimed that the benefits will be a dramatic streamlining of the FCC's compliance and enforcement process. An intelligent person responding to the agency's description might easily ask, "What enforcement process?"

That harsh, albeit obvious, question aside, I congratulate ITA for its guts. Resolving interference complaints has always been problematic, particularly between cochannel users of shared spectrum. Yet, ITA has boldly stepped forward and volunteered to fill a vacuum that is so large, the sucking sound it creates can be heard at each of the FCC's monitoring stations. The FCC's enforcement record is so poor that an operator could solve an interference problem faster with a nail file applied slowly to a guy wire than with a complaint to a government official.

ITA's civic-minded action must, therefore, be viewed in the total context of the FCC's past record and present politics. If ITA is to be effective in its efforts, it must have a chance to succeed. But will it? If I have my doubts, my suspicions are not laid at ITA's feet, but before

the throne of deregulation upon which rests the FCC.

To be successful, ITA must have the FCC's support. ITA does not have enforcement authority and cannot force operators to recognize its findings or abide by its recommendations. In this, ITA is akin to a neighborhood watch group, with bright orange vests, walkie-talkies and jawboning tactics, ready to alert the cops when it spots a truly dangerous situation. But if the cops don't show when called, the neighborhood watch

Case closed.

But the complaints continued, so the FCC set up a monitoring program, employing the shop of one of the complaining cochannel operators. Seventeen videotapes were produced to record the interfering signals as they appeared on a spectrum analyzer. Decoding and recording devices produced reams of evidence showing that single cap codes were receiving thousands of pages per month from the illegal system and that the information sent was duplicative.

An investigation by the Personal Communications Industry Association recommended that the interfering operator abandon the channel. The FCC sent an investigator to some of the interfering operator's sites to examine his transmission equipment. A meeting was called in Washington before the Field Operations Bureau (now the Compliance and Information Bureau). The FCC's investigation showed that the operator was not complying with the terms of his license and was improperly passing traffic between RCC and PCP facilities.

In an amazing act of spectrum management, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability, demanding a

forfeiture of \$16,000 from the bad actor. The bad operator promptly filed a request for a consent decree which, in effect, said that he might have done some inadvertent acts that may have caused interference. But accidents happen, and the agency should reduce the fine to zero, while proclaiming that it was all an unfortunate misunderstanding. That request is still pending after three years.

The above example is quite rare—the FCC actually *did* something. Oh sure, the interfering operator was able to delay any action for months, and never paid a fine, and the agency has not lifted a finger to enforce its NAL, but that's quibbling. Then there's "the rest of the story."

The legitimate operator whose business



Illustration by John Hayes

group is pretty helpless. My experience shows that the FCC cops are permanently parked at the doughnut shop.

No good deed...

An operator in Pennsylvania was suspected of having created intentional harmful interference to no less than three cochannel operators, four local police forces, two hospitals and anyone else that dared use his PCP channels. After delaying an investigation for months, the FCC field office monitored the frequencies and decided that the errant operator *might* be causing a problem. The FCC sent the operator an official inquiry, asking him if he was causing a problem. He said he wasn't.

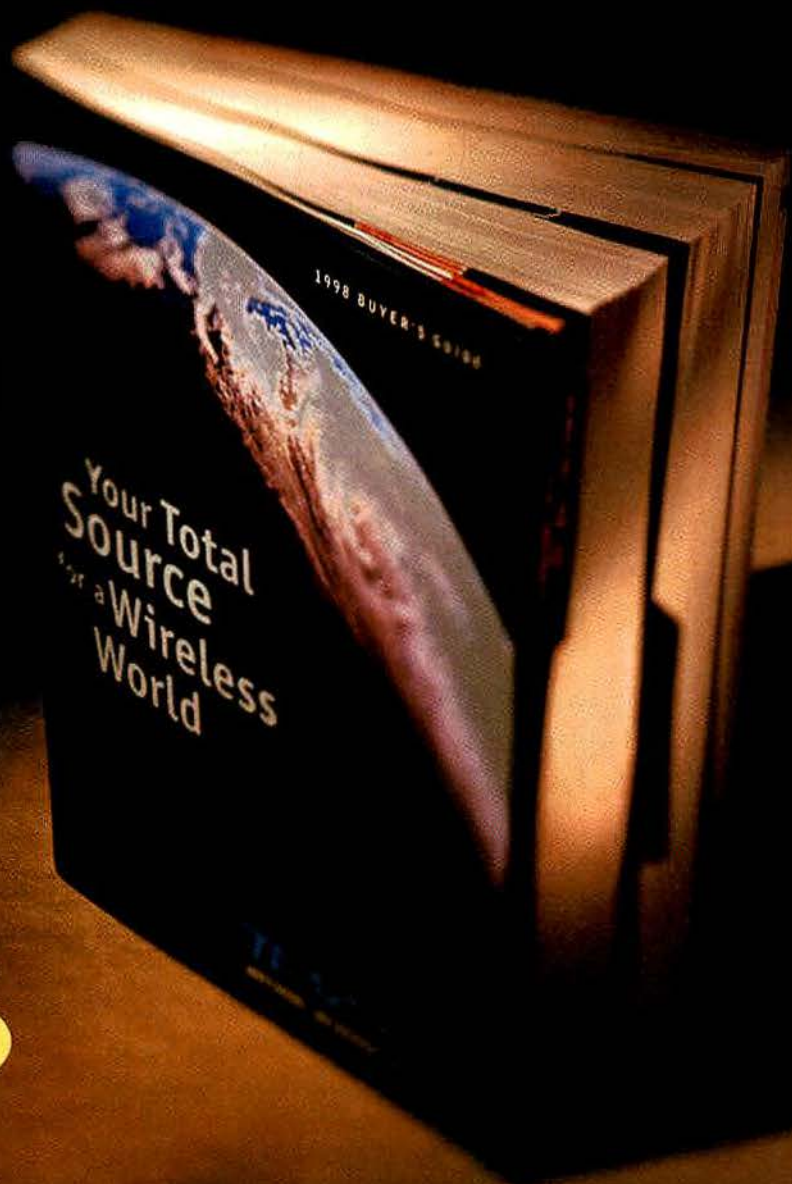
Schwaninger, MRT's regulatory consultant, is a partner in the law firm of Brown and Schwaninger, Washington, DC. He is a member of the Radio Club of America.

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suffered tremendously due to the bad operator's harmful interference sued the bad operator for business losses. After going up through the appellate courts, the injured operator was totally rebuffed by the courts' decisions because of the FCC's failure to resolve the consent decree request. The courts deemed it an open question subject to the agency's exclusive jurisdiction regarding radio transmissions. The injured operator requested an opinion from the FCC that it did not mind if he sued for damages in local court, but the FCC never responded to the operator's request.

The injured operator spent thousands on legal fees, personnel time, lost business and a host of other costs. The bad operator spent

thousands on legal fees, but came away without a fine and free from civil liability. The FCC got to publish a decision that showed that it was tough on interfering operators. Oh yes, the hospitals got to buy new equipment to avoid future interference and the police forces switched carriers to use one of the systems operated by the bad operator because those systems were more interference-free. In

essence, the cops paid for the bad actor's legal fees.



Politicians with a badge

ITA's noble enforcement gesture is laudable, but I fear it's a bit naive. The FCC simply does not wish to enforce its rules. It's messy and expensive, and it's political dynamite. What if the company that's

being charged has political pull? What if the results of an enforcement study point up that a particular type of operation simply cannot peacefully coexist in the marketplace? Or what if an investigation shows just how inept the FCC is in this area? Will the agency take decisive action?

The FCC records are overflowing with untouched complaints and evidence of operators whose businesses failed due to agency inaction in interference, forgery, perjury, strike applications, abuse of process, slamming, jamming, pirating, cloning and every form of electronic-administrative destruction imaginable. When the problem gets too pervasive, the agency does little, if anything, about individual complaints. Instead, it merely rewrites the rules to accommodate the problem.

One recent example is the FCC's forbearance of its equipment authorization rules for personal computer manufacturers. The devices did not comply with the radiation rules when tested. So, the FCC stopped testing and allowed the manufacturers to "pinky swear" that their devices complied. Good enough.

Another example is the FCC's upping the number of telephone lines that have to be out of service before the local exchange carrier is deemed to have had a failure significant enough to be subject to reporting requirements. Get that reporting requirement number high enough and the agency can proudly claim that "There have been no reported failures."

ITA's efforts will be used by the FCC to prove to Congress that the agency is still in the spectrum management business... that it *cares*. It will co-opt ITA's valiant efforts and claim ownership over the successes of the program, while leaving ITA to sort out the failures. The FCC-ITA enforcement program will result in a political partnership, the likes of which haven't been seen since McGovern backed Eagleton "1,000%."

The situation wouldn't be so tragic if the livelihoods of so many operators were not at stake. But I fear what ITA is doing, by volunteering for this unenviable task, is becoming an enabler, allowing the FCC to affect a stern mask of enforcement, while beneath the mask, it sports a bored grin. ■

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A golden opportunity at Round Mountain

A cooperative effort between public safety and private industrial radio users leads to the development of a reliable radio communications site. A new philosophy of site selection for year-round radio coverage and creative antenna system design play key roles.

By William Seethaler

Two common problems faced by site planners and system managers are the high cost and difficult access often associated with the most desirable locations for a wide-coverage, multi-agency communications site.

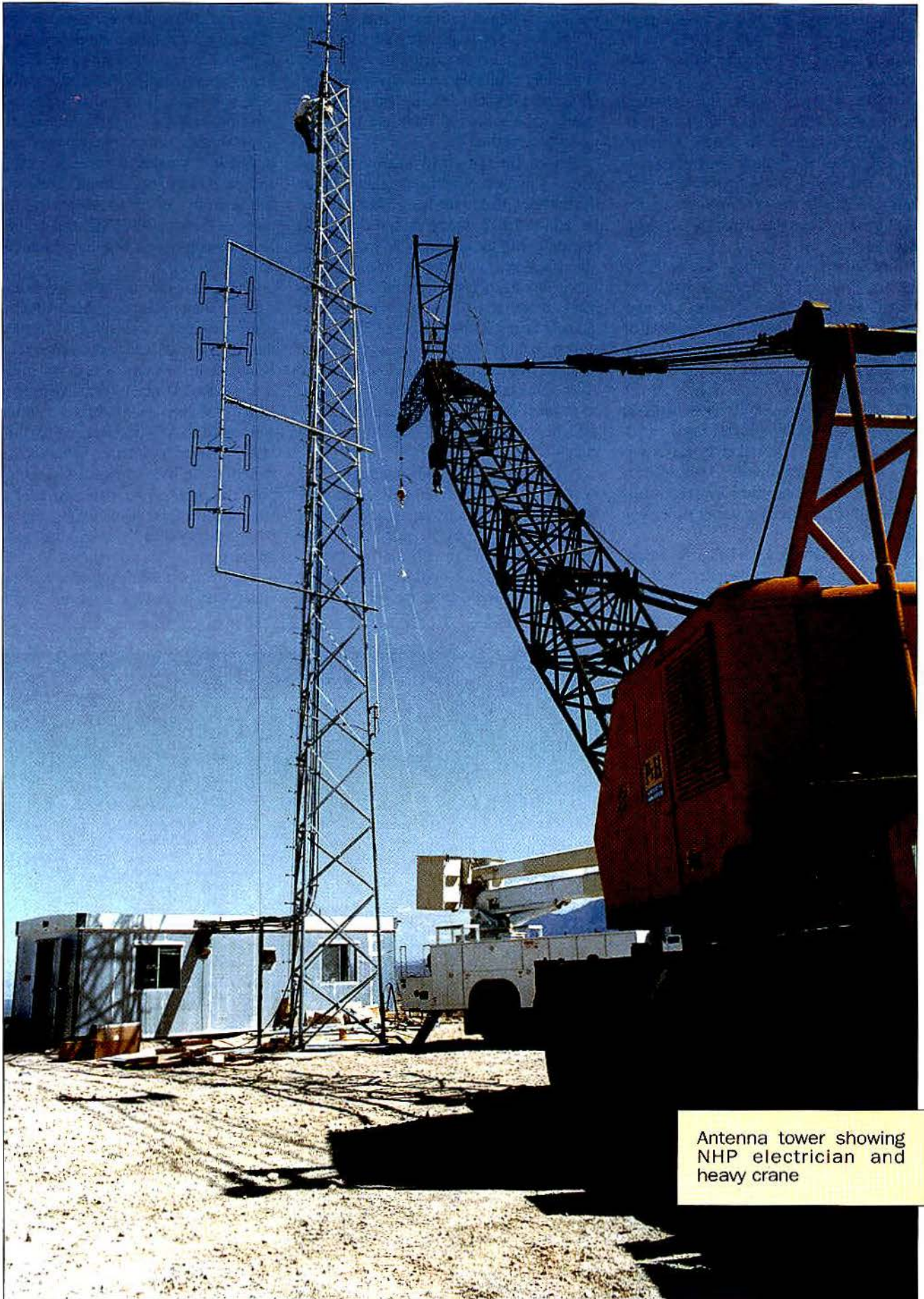
This was the case in Central Nevada, where the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP), Nye County and several other users depended on Shoshone Peak (9,200 feet) for radio coverage in the Big Smoky Valley north of Tonapah. Police, fire, roads and public works systems were all located on the peak.

Flanked to the east and west by the 12,000-foot Toquima and Toiyabe mountain ranges, the Big Smoky Valley curves gently for about 100 miles. State Route 376 is the only highway through the middle of the valley, and it is the main link between Tonapah and Austin, on Highway 50, to the north.

Shoshone Peak had the advantage of an existing dirt access road, circumventing Bureau of Land Management regulations that prevent road building on most publicly owned peaks. Budget limitations prevented construction of facilities for commercial power, and a combination of solar panels and battery banks provided power to the various repeater systems and remote receivers.

Seethaler is marketing and sales manager for Telewave, Mountain View, CA. Part numbers mentioned in this article refer to Telewave products.

Closeup
of final
adjust-
ment of
transmit
array



Antenna tower showing
NHP electrician and
heavy crane

Accessible in winter only by a slow, dangerous climb in a snow cat, the site is vulnerable to frequent damage from ice storms that regularly tear antennas off their mounts, leaving troopers and county personnel without radio coverage.

Making matters worse, the mountain micro-climate often produces thick fog, cutting off light to the solar panels. Although extra batteries and remote start generators were considered, it was not possible to sufficiently harden the site against winter storms, and three years ago the search for a replacement began.

Efforts by both agencies to relocate the site were slowed by the same budgetary limitations that brought about its creation. The costs of land acquisition, restrictions on road building and extension of commercial power made development of another high-elevation site nearly impossible. Early in 1997, Nye County and NHP came together in their search. Both agencies made extensive use of VHF highband channels, ensuring technical compatibility. They made a decision to emphasize year-round access and availability of commercial power rather than elevation.

This would require a site below the annual snow line, but high enough to cover the 2,000-square-mile valley, with its two tall

mountain ranges cutting off radio coverage from outside. During the previous year, Nye County Communications Manager Terry Payne had approached Round Mountain Gold Corporation to discuss the possibility of locating a radio site on their property. Several small hills above the eastern side of the valley, some as high as 1500 feet, were particularly attractive.

Named for the small nearby town of Round Mountain, which sprang up with the discovery of gold in the late 1800s, the mine has grown rapidly during the last 20 years to become one of the largest in the world. Mine officials, already considering communication improvements, quickly realized that participation in the new site would allow them to upgrade their outmoded simplex VHF radio system, and they provided access to a prime location. Because the site was low enough to allow some activity during the winter, construction of a tower, a shelter and utility service began in late 1997 and progressed rapidly.

NHP communications manager Mel Pennington contacted Telewave to provide antenna and combining equipment, as well as overall system design, based on several previous successful installations for his department. Pennington outlined his desire for a system that would cover the valley and its

two-lane highway but would not waste power in unneeded directions. This ruled out the use of collinear or yagi antennas because of sharp nulls in their patterns and the problem of coverage overshoot close to the site. These antenna types would also cause severe multipath distortion in this environment because their highly compressed patterns would scatter signal power off the mountains. Another concern was the gain and bandwidth requirement. Existing (and future) users operated over a frequency range of more than 15MHz, and continuous radio coverage was needed over a minimum 75-mile span.

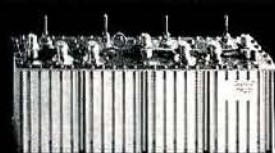
The combination of existing users and the need to allow for uncomplicated future expansion created a wide range of frequencies that could not be accommodated within one combiner or antenna system. A computer analysis also indicated significant intermodulation problems among several transmitters and receivers. As work began on the difficult task of minimizing interaction between transmitters while keeping signal loss as low as possible, our system engineers determined that the different transmit frequencies would have to be handled by at least two separate antennas.

This required the design of a transmit antenna array with four identical, horizontal

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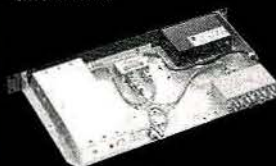
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Close-up of tower top showing receiver antenna array



Photo by
Will Galloway

bays mounted vertically, allowing selection of two non-interfering transmit frequency groups, handled by separate combin-

ers. Although the use of hybrid combining would have simplified the design, the much higher loss of this type of combiner ruled out their use in the system.

The multibay antenna system is based on the ANT150D6-9 folded dipole array. The combination of medium gain, wide bandwidth and mounting flexibility made this antenna the only feasible choice. This specific dipole array is capable of creating custom radiation patterns for special requirements, and this was the critical factor for the Round Mountain site. The corporate feed system allows individual configuration of each element to create shaped coverage, reducing nulls and pattern distortion. Our antenna manager, John Hilmer, had to contend with both a relatively short 80-foot tower that created reduced isolation between transmit and receive antennas,

and the unusual coverage requirements.

"Not only does the valley curve," Hilmer said, "but the highway bends right toward the antenna site, and the multipath off the mountains from a conventional antenna would have made this site unusable."

Using computer modeling and data gathered through hundreds of installations, we created a four-bay (two-by-two) transmit array that uses the tower to shape the radiation pattern and fits into a compressed vertical space to maximize separation from the receive system. The "coverage shaping" directs signal power up and down the highway and keeps multipath to a minimum.

"The coverage of the antenna system is superb," said NHP's Pennington. "It's literally molded to the shape of the valley. Nothing is wasted, and we don't have any nulls anywhere on the highway."

Final system antenna gain is just over 8dBd, and received signal strength exceeds 50mV over most of the desired coverage area.

The combining system is based on M108-150 eight-channel VHF cavity-ferrite combiners. The main design goal of combining is always to control intermodulation.

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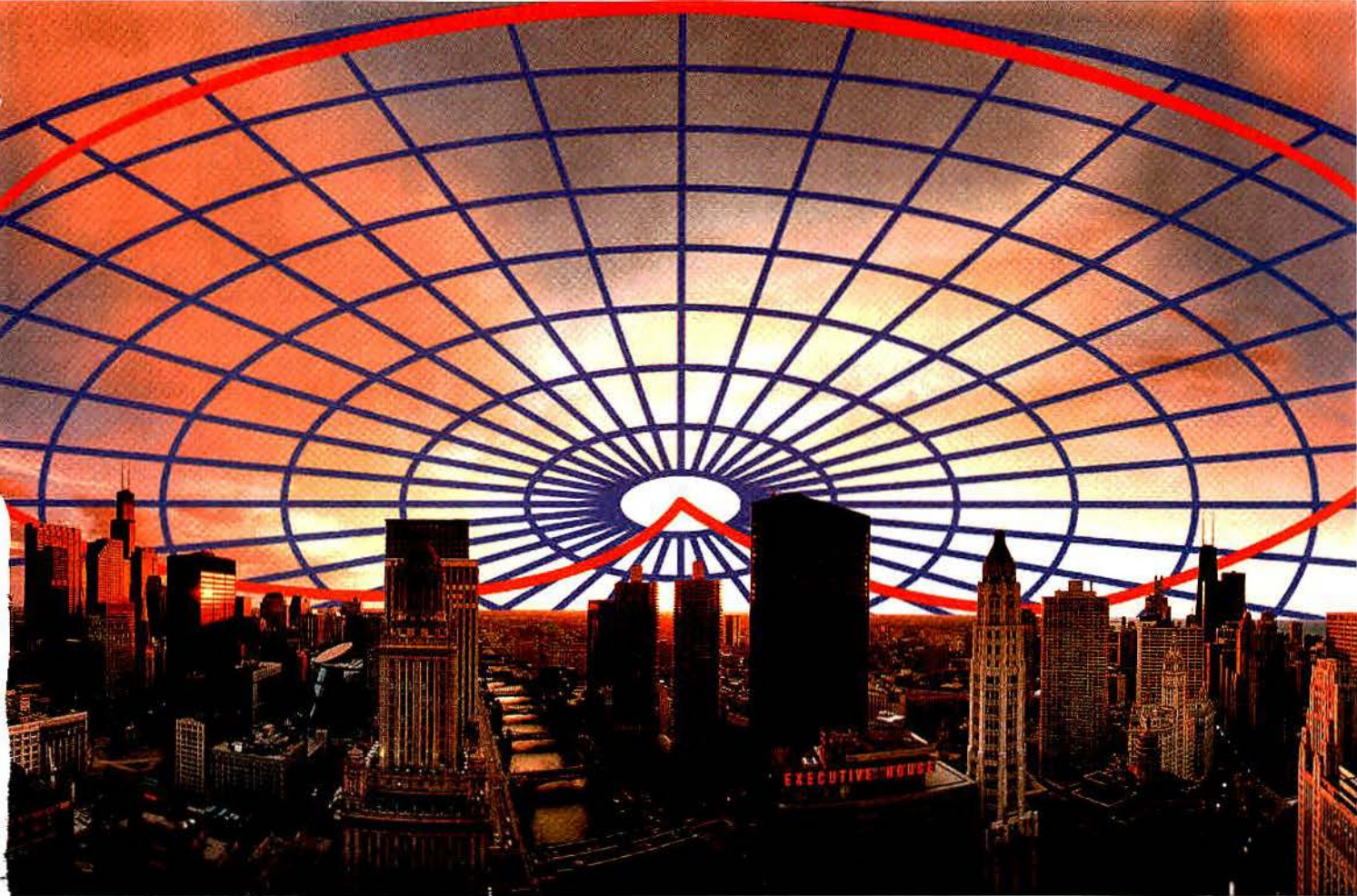
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smaller coverage requirement of the gold mine made it possible to further reduce transmitter interaction by placing RMGC's three repeaters on a third combiner and single bay antenna system, with room for expansion. Although only seven channels were installed for immediate use, other users occupying five additional channels were accommodated for future expansion, bringing the total to 12 channels. The lowest frequency will be used by local amateurs at 147.330MHz, and a weather service transmitter will operate at 162.550MHz. An FCC waiver allows the use of three marine ship-to-

shore channel pairs for the mine repeater operations at 157/162MHz.

The receiver system also required special engineering for tight frequency spacing. An

expansion receiver channel for the Nevada Division of Wildlife on 151.160MHz was affected by Nye County Public Works at 151.055 as well as a future NHP repeater, also in the 151 MHz band.

"UHF and 800MHz systems are relatively easy to design, because transmit/receive spacing is consistent, and receivers are high or low, depending on the band," said system engineer Bill Kubicki. "With a complex VHF system, the rules go out the window because frequencies are not assigned in standard pairs, and receivers often end up very close to transmitters."

TWPC-1505-2 dual high-Q pass cavities were used for all receiver paths, with the addition of crystal filters for spacings of less than 100kHz. Low-noise amplifiers feeding power splitters allowed custom tuning of signal level to each receiver, fed by a 2-bay dipole array at the top of the tower.

For the gold mine, the separate antenna system composed of two single dipoles provides coverage of the entire 400-square-mile property, including the 1600-foot-deep main pit, an area of prime concern.

"The coverage for radios in the pit has always been a problem, and it got worse as we dug deeper," said RMGC Chief Engineer Dan Moore. "The new system allows even a 5W hand-held to talk out of the pit to any other part of our property." Potential commercial development of surrounding land owned by the mine also will be aided by improved radio communication.

The cooperation of several organizations with similar goals has resulted in a successful and reliable radio communications site at Round Mountain. A new philosophy of site selection for year-round radio coverage has given the NHP, Nye County and RMGC an improved ability to provide public and private safety services to residents and mine employees. Cost savings to Nevada taxpayers, compared to a conventional mountaintop site, are considerable, both for initial development and ongoing operation.

The coverage of the valley is now better than before, with more consistent signal levels and greater penetration of previously shadowed areas. The lower site elevation has also eliminated interference to sites outside the valley, not to mention stormy snowcat rides, formerly a fact of life for users of the mountaintop. ■



It's Dusk. Do You Know If All Your Tower Lights Are Working?

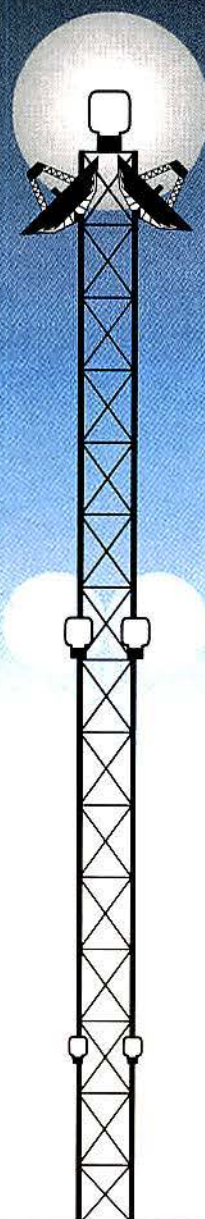
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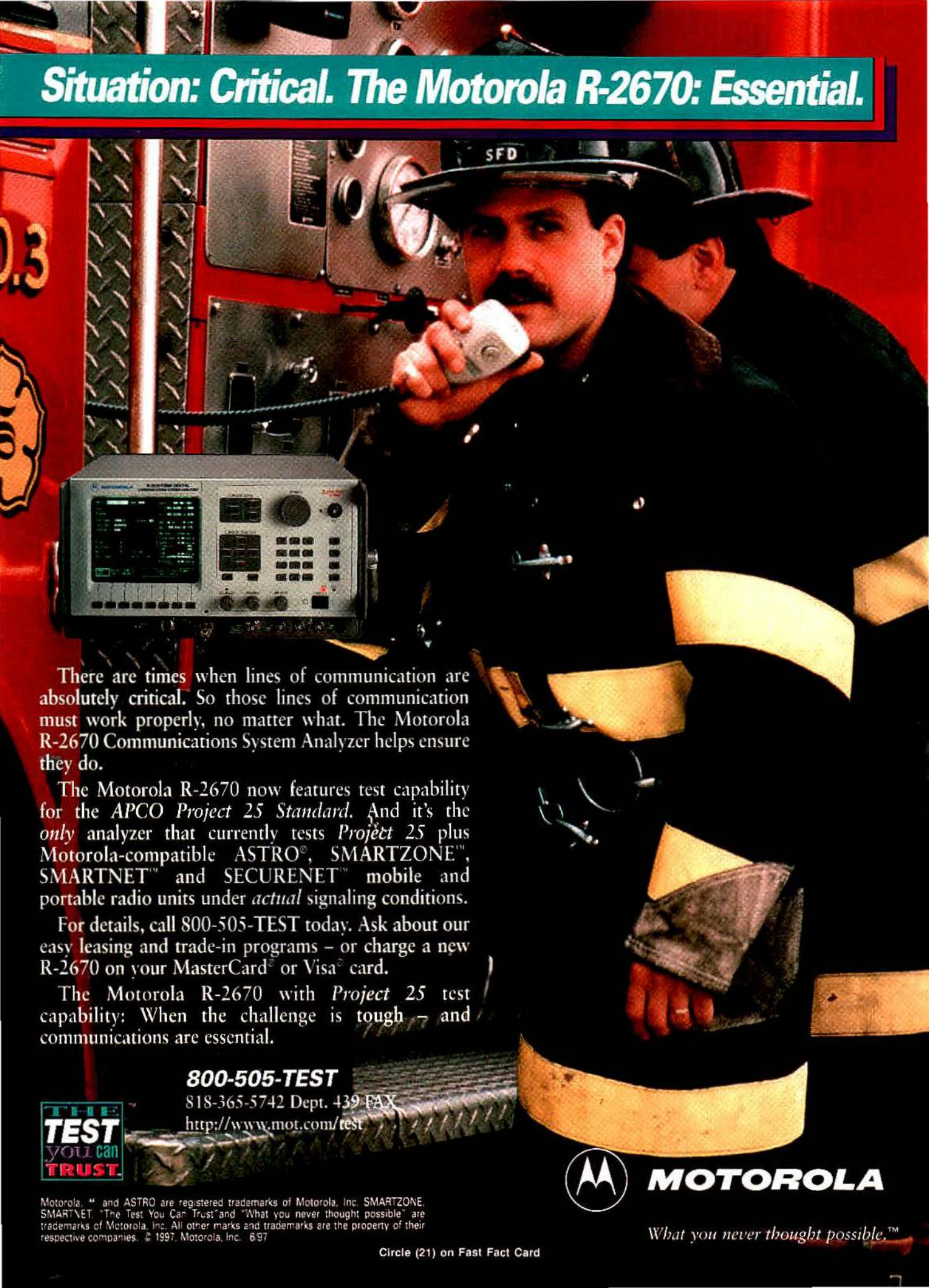


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Fred M. Link: 'Goodwill Ambassador'

Fred Link was known to several generations. His fame began with amateur radio exploits, continued with police radio innovations, included World War II radio manufacturing and extended with mobile radio consulting.

By Don Bishop

I met Fred M. Link in August 1984 at the Salt Lake City APCO conference. I was *Mobile Radio Technology's* new senior editor. Phil Cook, then a co-owner of *MRT* and its publisher, invited a group for lunch, including Fred.

"Fred, what do you do?" I asked.

"Don, it's been so long since anyone asked me, I don't know how to answer," he responded.

You see, Fred was so famous in the land mobile radio industry that hardly anyone ever had to ask. What followed was about 20 minutes of Fred's resume, which sketched an amazing story.

My last visit with Fred was on June 8, 1998, when Mercy Contreras (*MRT's* group publisher) and I took him to lunch at Loafer's Restaurant in Frenchtown, NJ. We talked about his friends in the industry and in the Radio Club of America. He passed away in his sleep on June 18 from a rapidly advancing leukemia that had been diagnosed only a few days before. He was 93.

Fred never wanted to cooperate in the writing of his biography. He wouldn't let me print his stories "while I'm alive," he said, "because I can't be sure what's the truth and what isn't. It might embarrass some people."

"But Fred, most of them are no longer with us," I persuaded.

"That's true, but I still can't be sure of what I say," he insisted.

Early on, Fred worked part-time as a telegraph operator for the railroad. He was 14.

"I learned Morse code to earn a merit badge in 'wireless' to qualify as maybe the first Eagle scout in Pennsylvania," Fred ex-

plained. "A lot of the railroad's Morse operators had left for the military in World War I, so I got some work as a relief operator."

During high school, Fred worked for his uncle, George Motter, as an apprentice electrician.

"I attended school half-days and worked the other half," he said. Fred earned a Journeyman's Certificate as an electrician by the time he entered Pennsylvania State College.

He was a radio amateur, first with spark station 3OV at Boy Scout Troop No. 7 in the York, PA, YMCA, and then with his own con-

Fred had been in charge of tube manufacturing. A U.S. Navy radio inspector, Walter Peterman, suggested that Fred should consult the trustee of Duovac Radio Tube Company, Brooklyn, NY, to help the company to complete U.S. Navy orders for tubes. Fred did business for two years as "Fred M. Link, Consultant," with Duovac and other tube manufacturers. By 1933, Fred had become partners with R.C. Powell in the R.C. Powell Company, which manufactured remote broadcast amplifiers and radios.

Once Fred told me he bought out Powell; another time he said Powell became over-

whelmed by the business challenges of the Depression, turned the company over to Fred and left. Either way, Fred became sole owner, changed the name to "Fred M. Link Company" and went to work completing a Signal Corps contract for equipment.

The Link company made a variety of electronic equipment, assisted other manufacturers (including DuMont) and provided repair services before concentrating on police radio communications equipment under a new name, Link Radio Corporation.

"Fred Budelman, our chief engineer, was brilliant," Fred said. "He could take circuit diagrams, think about them overnight, and build prototypes the next day."

What put Link Radio in the forefront was the manufacture of frequency-modulated (FM) two-way radio equipment.

"That was the brainchild of Dan Noble, an electrical engineering professor at the

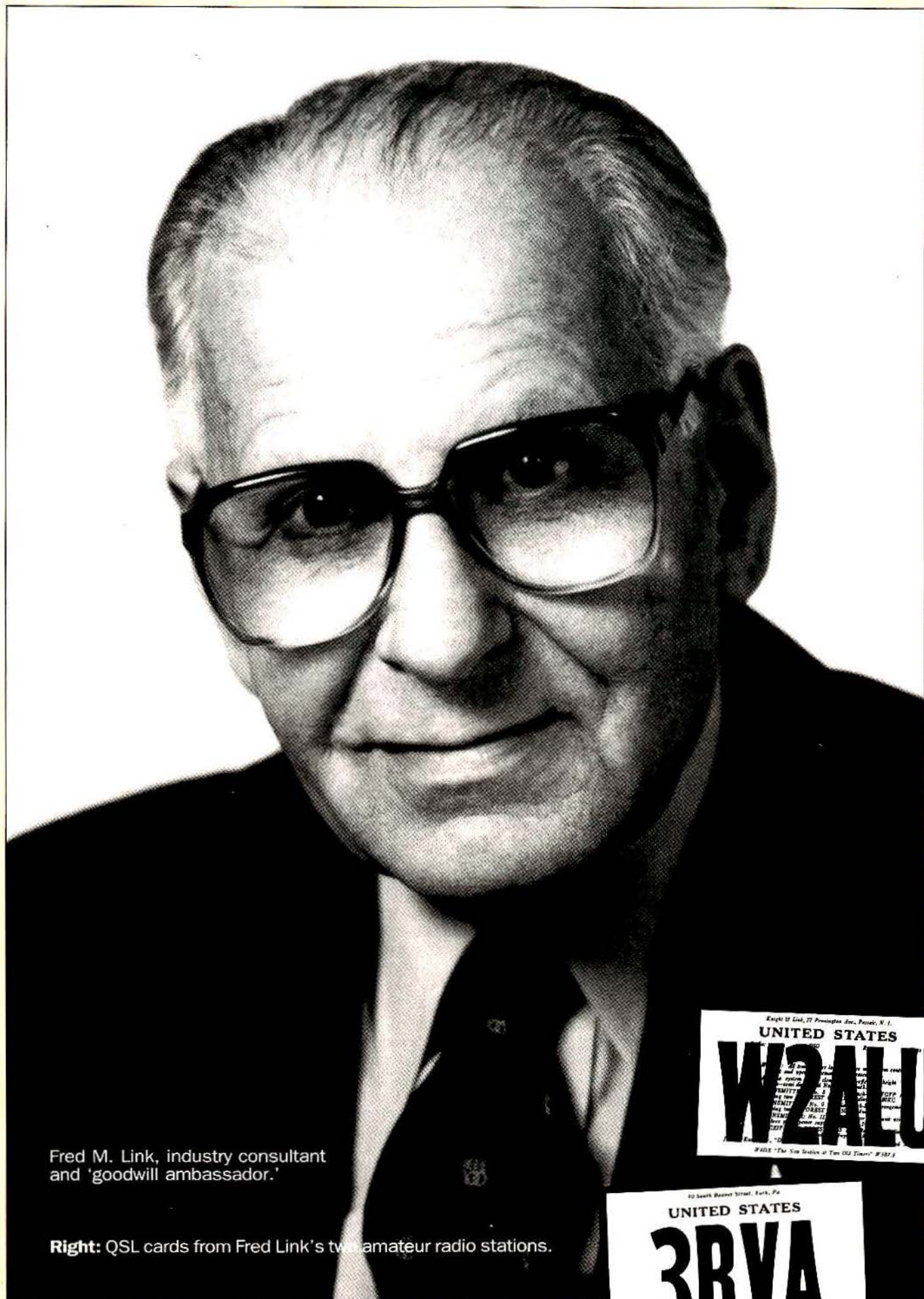
Fred Link (left) with his amateur radio partner, John B. Knight, at station W2ALU in their New York apartment in 1929.



tinuous wave (CW) station, 3BVA. Access to electrical parts at his uncle's company helped Fred to build these stations. From 1927 to 1933, he and John B. Knight Jr. operated W2ALU in New York and Passaic, New Jersey.

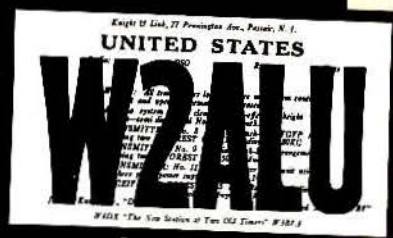
As a graduate electrical engineer in 1927, Fred went to work at New York Telephone and then, in 1929, DeForest Radio. In late 1931, Fred resigned from DeForest Radio along with a group of employees including the man who had hired him, Allen B. DuMont.

Bishop is editorial director.



Fred M. Link, industry consultant and 'goodwill ambassador.'

Right: QSL cards from Fred Link's two amateur radio stations.



University of Connecticut," Fred said. "He was consulting the state police on the design of a statewide communications network."

Noble had monitored experimental FM broadcasts from Edwin H. Armstrong's Alpine, NJ, station, and had developed an idea for using FM for communications.

"Noble visited Link Radio with diagrams and showed them to Budelman and me," Fred said. "The next day, Budelman had prototypes." Link Radio then built the Connecticut equipment.

With FM, Link Radio took the lead in police radio manufacturing, and later made equipment used by all military branches during World War II. His company earned five Army-Navy "E" awards. In 1950, Fred sold the company.

"I had been lucky many times," Fred said, but luck ran out with the sale of the business. His buyers gave him preferred (non-voting) stock. "I didn't need the cash," Fred said. His buyers came under federal indictment for reasons I never learned and diverted company resources to pay their legal expenses. Link Radio was in Chapter 11 bankruptcy by 1952 and was liquidated in 1953. Fred went back to work.

In 1954, under a five-year contract with DuMont Laboratories, run by his old friend Allen DuMont, Fred established a mobile radio division and hired many former Link Ra-

tation and because Fred had helped to prepare compelling legal exhibits in opposition to RCA in a patent dispute. More luck?

"Sarnoff told this vice president how much

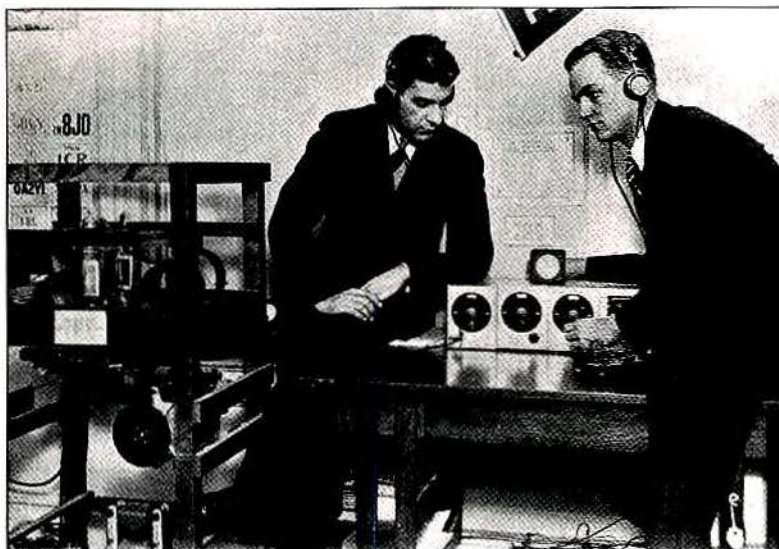
I was to be paid, and it was more than the vice president made. He didn't like that very much," Fred said. Fred's help saved the contract, and Sarnoff kept him as a consultant from 1959 to 1965.

After 1965, Fred worked as a consultant for a variety of companies. One was Cambridge, England-based Pye Telecommunications, which became part of Philips Radio Communications Systems, which is now Simoco Telecommunications. Another was Communications Industries, one of whose founders, Jerry

Stover, credits a Link radio with saving his life in World War II—somewhat for its communications capability, and somewhat for its capacity to stop bullets, as Jerry tells the story.

Others to benefit from Fred's expertise included Repco, E.F. Johnson, Ericsson, Trott Communications Group and ... *Mobile Radio Technology*. Fred became our industry consultant in 1984. He advised us about information we should publish and introduced us to industry figures he thought we should

Continued on page 68



dio employees. The division served many former Link Radio customers that had been left without replacement equipment and service.

After the contract was up, Gen. David Sarnoff, the head of Radio Corporation of America (RCA), told one of his vice presidents to hire Fred as a consultant to resolve a problem with an RCA contract to provide police radio equipment to the city of Philadelphia. The Sarnoffs had met the Links on a cruise ship, and Sarnoff knew Fred by repu-

'They tell me I was magnificent!'

Fred M. Link was my mentor and my good friend. My life was enriched by his friendship, and I shall forever cherish the memories of our many wonderful times together.

Fred passed away on June 18, 1998. It was a sad day for all of us in the land mobile industry. Fred was revered as the "father of two-way radio." Hardly a person in the industry didn't know Fred personally or by reputation. Fred was 93 when he passed away. His age, though, never stopped him from being as involved in the industry as his health would permit. As recently as the first week in June, Fred signed some letters announcing his resignation from the Radio Club banquet contributions committee. Committee? He was the committee! And until June 18, 1998, Fred was industry consultant to *Mobile Radio Technology*.

I am reminded of the wonderful times I shared with Fred. He once chastised me for not being present at one of his many keynote speeches.

"They tell me I was magnificent!" he proclaimed with a straight face. And I have no doubt that he was. Fred was quite a gifted speaker. For years he was the featured speaker at the Radio Club of America break-

fasts, and how we looked forward to his presentations. We sat there mesmerized by his stories about Silver Dollar Jim West or about the time he and Johnny Knight entered a DX contest and transmitted from their room at the New York City YMCA with bootlegged power from an elevator. Their operation caused so much interference to AM broadcast radio reception that authorities traced the source to their room. Fred had so many wonderful experiences to share. Remember his many adventures with Bill Lear, and how he met Nikola Tesla? Fred would stray from his story, and maybe take two or three digressions, but he always tied everything together in the end. Part of the fun of listening was wondering how in the world he would tie what he was talking about to what he had started to talk about in the first place.

As my friendship with Fred grew, so did my relationship with his lovely wife, Mildred, and his daughter, Joanne. Fred and Mildred are affectionately called "Daddy" and "Mami" by their children, grandchildren and close friends. Mami and Joanne share Fred's wonderful sense of humor, amazing energy and ability to make you feel like you are their best friend. I asked Mami if there

was anything we could do for her. She said she would like to have a collection of Fred's "one liners." If you knew Fred you know of his special, and sometimes not too humble, way of saying things. Mami always got a kick out of hearing about them and would like to have a collection of them in remembrance of Fred. If you have any stories you would like to share with Mami please send them to me at *Mobile Radio Technology*, or you can email them to mercy_contreras@intertec.com. We would love to be able to give Mami a nice collection of "Fred stories."

In one of my last conversations with Fred, I told him that things were just not the same without his full involvement. I told him that we were trying to carry on like he expected us to, but that it would never be the same. His "one-liner" response was; "Well, that can't be denied, that can't be denied."

Daddy, you were special, and we will miss you terribly. There will never be another quite like you. And that can't be denied, Daddy. That can't be denied.

—Mercy Contreras
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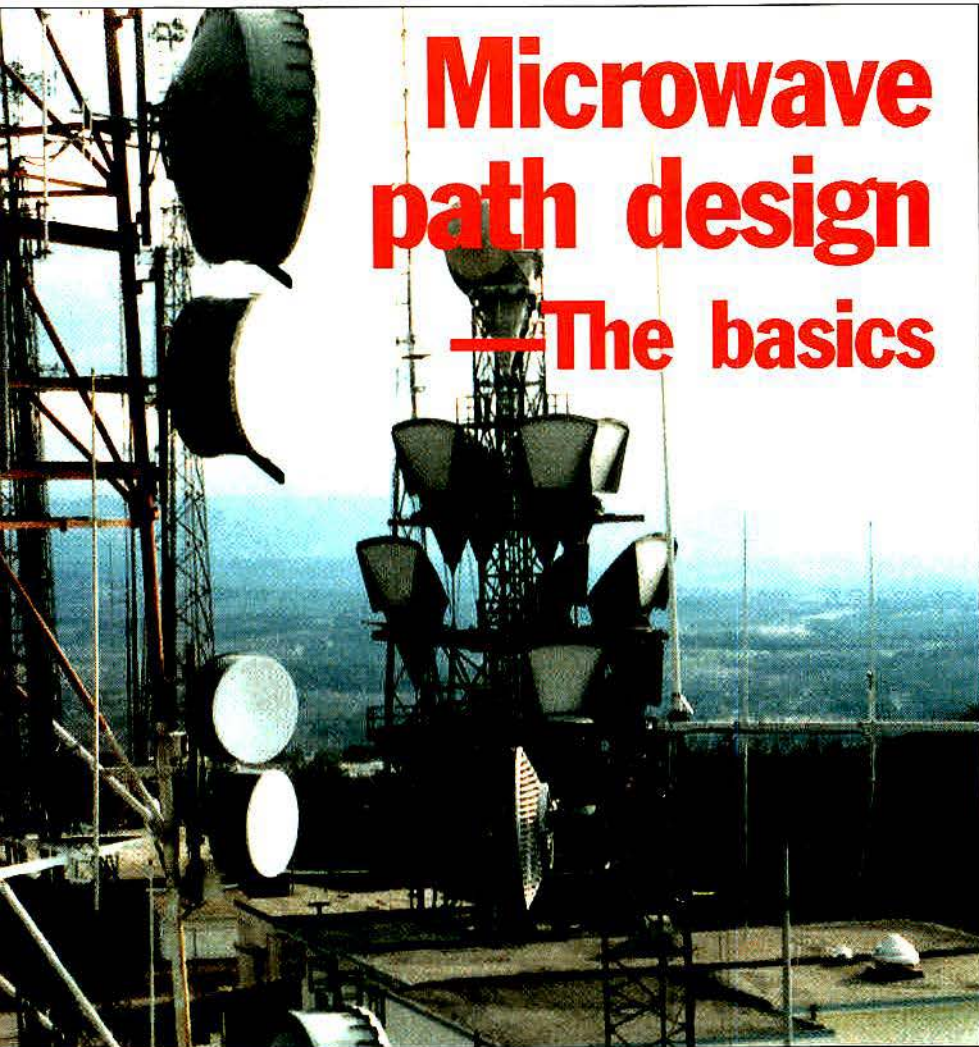


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Microwave path design —The basics



Part 4—This series of four articles is a primer on some of the propagation-related basics of microwave path design. This last installment discusses path reliability.

By Jeff Ashley

Preceding installments in this series have described basic considerations:

- Determining whether a proposed path is "line-of-sight."
- Evaluating path clearances with regard to refractive effects.
- Evaluating path clearances with regard to Fresnel zones.
- Considering path reflections.
- Deriving a power budget and fade margin.

This concluding article covers path reliability.

Path reliability

Usually, microwave links are designed to meet a specific reliability factor. Reliability may also be termed "availability"

and is expressed as a percentage. It represents the percentage of time the link is expected to operate without an outage caused by propagation conditions. The Bell standard for short-haul propagation reliability is 99.995% (minimum), while requirements for high-capacity, long-haul may be 99.9999%. "Unavailability" or the probability of an outage (because of propagation conditions) is often referred to and, if expressed in percentage, the value is determined by subtracting the availability (expressed as a percentage) from 100. For example, a short-haul reliability (availability) factor of 99.995% can also be expressed as an unavailability factor of 0.005%.

Availability and unavailability are referenced to a year. In other words, if the unavailability is 0.001%, it could also be

stated there will be:

$$365.25 \text{ (days / yr)} \times 24 \text{ (hr / day)} \times 60 \text{ (min / hr)} \times \frac{0.001}{100} \\ = 5.26 \text{ minutes of unavailability (outage) per year.}$$

The propagation-related unavailability is derived from Equation 1 below. This equation is used as an approximation for the one-direction effects of multipath fading with various terrain and atmospheric conditions.

$$P_m = a \times b \times 2.5 \times 10^{-6} \times f \times D^3 \times 10^{-F/10} \quad [\text{Eq. 1}]$$

where

P_m = Outage probability (unavailability) due to multipath fading.

D = path length (in miles).

f = frequency (in GHz).

F = fade margin of the path (in dB).

a = one of the following generalized terrain factors:

4: very smooth (including water).

1: average, some roughness.

$1/4$: very rough.

b = one of the following generalized climate factors:

$1/2$: hot, humid.

$1/4$: normal, temperate.

$1/8$: very dry.

(Note that the result of this equation must be multiplied by 100 in order to be expressed as a percentage.)

Another factor that can affect path reliability is rain attenuation, particularly past 10GHz. At these higher frequencies, the wavelength becomes short enough that rain droplets (depending on their size and shape) can present themselves as obstructions to the path. This occurs when the diameter of the droplets approach $1/4$ wavelength of the frequency being used. The maximum instantaneous intensity of the rainfall and the percentage of the total path within the rain cell are other factors to be considered.

Because rain rates differ by geographic location, statistics for the particular area of interest must be obtained. Commercial path design software typically has this information in tables, requiring the user simply to select the geographic location of the proposed path. The values for that area are then accessed. The National Weather Bureau also maintains this information for various cities throughout the United States.

Increasing path reliability

One method of increasing path reliability is to increase the fade margin. If the

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design engineer dictates a particular fade margin requirement from the start, the power budget can be determined in a particular sequence. Knowing the noise threshold of the receiver being used (-dBm) and the required fade margin, the nominal signal level into the receiver can be determined (noise threshold [-dBm] plus fade margin [+ dB] = nominal receive level [-dBm]). The difference in decibels between the transmitter RF output level (+ dBm) on one end of the path and the desired receive signal level (RSL) on the other end of the path will be the maximum allowable net path loss. Because path distance and antenna heights are known, free space and atmospheric losses, along with all hardware losses on both ends, can be determined and will exceed this allowable net path loss by some amount (measured in decibels). The amount by which it is exceeded will be the necessary combined gain of the antennas on each end of the path. To achieve this required gain, proper antenna reflector diameters must be selected.

Parabolic ("dish") antennas typically have gain efficiencies of 55% to 65%. Using an efficiency of 55%, the gain of a parabolic antenna can be calculated as follows:

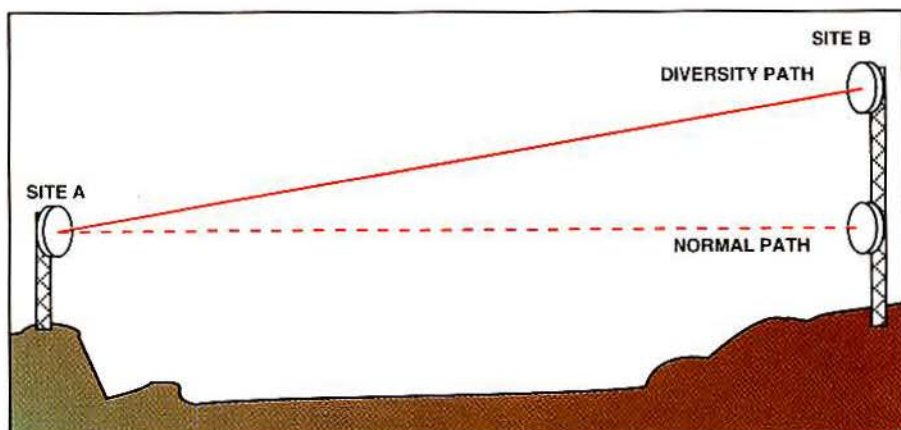


Figure 1. With adequate spacing between antennas, there should be little correlation between paths with regard to fading.

$$G = 20 \log_{10} B + 20 \log_{10} F + 7.5 \quad [\text{Eq. 2}]$$

where

G = gain over an isotropic antenna.

B = parabola diameter in feet.

F = frequency in GHz.

After a proposed microwave path has been evaluated with regard to reliability, the calculations may show that it will not meet the required standards. In such situations, additional techniques known as *diversity* methods may be employed.

One such technique is *space diversity*, which involves the addition of another re-

ceive antenna, separated in distance from the first, as shown in Figure 1 above. An additional receiver and associated switching/combining equipment will also be needed. The additional "diversity" antenna is usually mounted on the same tower structure, yet vertically separated from the site's original receive antenna. This diversity antenna is connected to the diversity receiver. This additional equipment essentially creates another microwave path between the two sites. Receiver switching and combining equipment then senses which receiver has the troubled signal (if fades occur) and switches that receiver "off-line."

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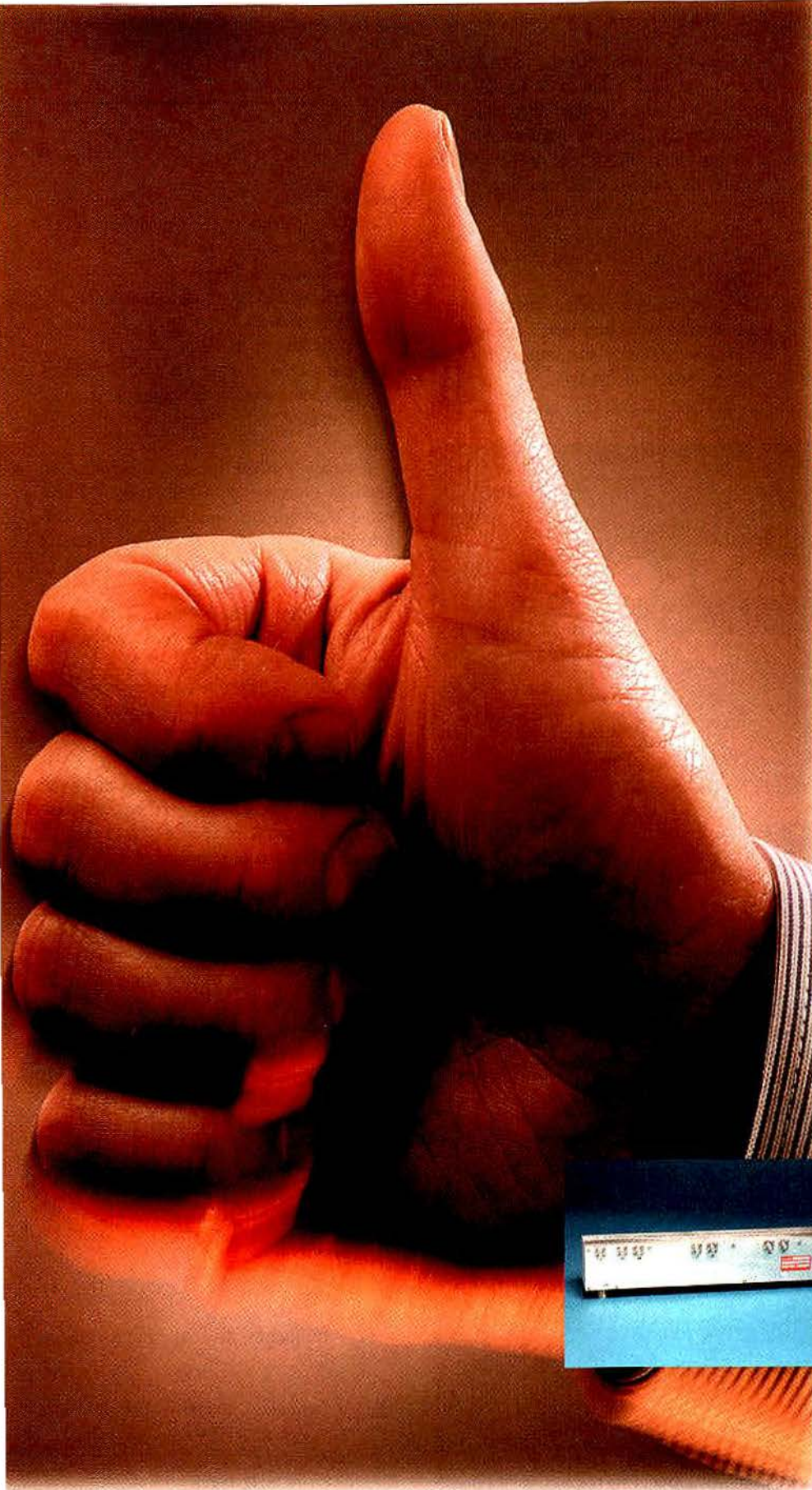
The RRX-450's superior technical performance is well suited for trunking environments. It has excellent transmit modulation bandwidth and linearity, allowing trunking control data to pass through cleanly without any distortion. And it can easily drive a 100 Watt power amplifier with 6 Watts of input and still operate at continuous duty.

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One drawback of space diversity is increased cost. Tower heights must be greater to achieve sufficient vertical antenna separation. In some cases, the existing tower structure might have to be retrofitted to handle the additional wind loading created by the diversity antenna. The diversity antenna, receiver and combining and switching equipment create additional cost.

When spacing is adequate between antennas, there should be little correlation between the two paths with regard to propagation characteristics. Improvement

in reliability comes from the reduced probability that both paths will be adversely affected by fading at the same time.

In general, more vertical spacing between antennas offers less path correlation and better path reliability. The rule of thumb for antenna spacing is as follows: 60-80 feet at 2GHz, 45-50 feet at 4GHz, 30-40 feet at 6GHz and 25-30 feet at 11GHz.

The following modified form of Arvids Vigants' fade reduction factor equation can be used to estimate the improvement offered by space diversity:

$$I_{sd} = \frac{7.0 \times 10^{-5} \times f \times s^2 \times 10^{F+10}}{D} \quad [\text{Eq. 3}]$$

where

I_{sd} = improvement factor (space diversity).

f = frequency in GHz.

s = vertical antenna spacing, in feet, between centers.

D = path length in miles.

F = path fade margin (if one antenna's path has a smaller fade margin, use that figure).

Frequency diversity is another method used to increase path reliability. Microwave transmitters operating on two frequencies (with a typical in-band diversity spacing of about 2%), and sometimes in two frequency bands (called crossband diversity), are used to transmit the same information to separate receivers at the other end of the path.

Reliability improvement comes from the reduced chances of fading occurring on both frequencies (or frequency bands) at the same time.

Frequency diversity does not require the vertical antenna spacing used in space diversity, and therefore reduces tower cost. It does, however, require the use of more spectrum because it uses two sets of frequencies.

Because available frequencies are in limited supply, the FCC disallows the use of frequency diversity except under certain conditions. Test comparisons between space and frequency diversity indicate that improvements realized with space diversity are generally greater than those achieved with frequency diversity.

A general formula to calculate the improvement factor given by frequency diversity is as follows:

$$I_{fd} = K \times \left(\frac{\Delta f}{f} \right) \times 10^{F+10} \quad [\text{Eq. 4}]$$

where

I_{fd} = frequency diversity improvement factor.

$\frac{\Delta f}{f}$ = frequency diversity spacing (percent \div 100).

F = fade margin.


$K = 1/2$ for 4 GHz band.

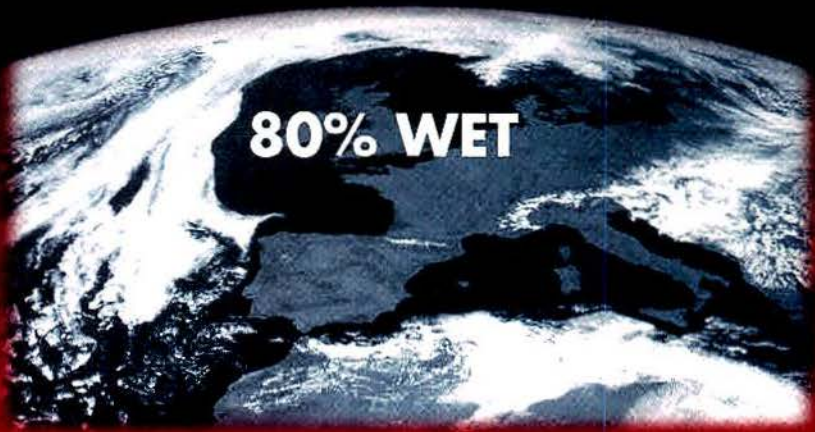
$1/3$ for 6 GHz band.

$1/8$ for 8 GHz band.


$1/12$ for 12 GHz band.

(The values of K shown above for the 8GHz and 12GHz bands are GTE-Lenkurt engineering estimates based on work from






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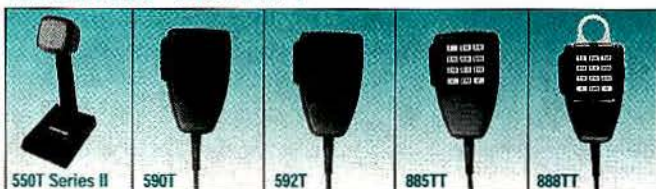
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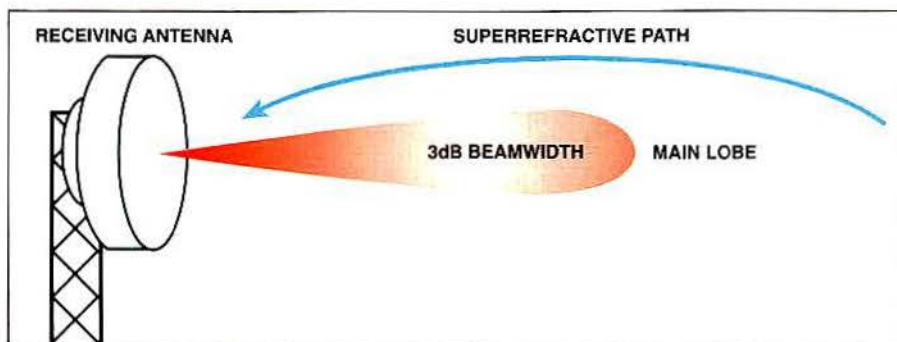
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The increased vertical angle of arrival under superrefractive conditions may cause the incoming wavefront to fall outside the beamwidth of the antenna. This is called 'antenna decoupling' and can cause a significant reduction in receive levels.

W.T. Barnett that dealt strictly with the 4GHz and 6GHz bands.)

Neither space diversity nor in-band frequency diversity provide improvement against rain attenuation, although out-of-band frequency diversity (such as 6GHz/12GHz) does.

Under superrefractive atmospheric conditions, negative values of K can exist where the path bows skyward at mid-path and comes downward at the ends. This will create a wavefront that will arrive at the antenna with a greater vertical angle than normal (see Figure 2 above). Because microwave antenna beamwidths can be small, this increased vertical arrival angle may be outside the antenna's half-power

beamwidth. The received signal level realized may be sufficiently low to cause noise problems or even an outage. This has been termed "antenna decoupling." A method of reducing this effect is to use a special *angle diversity* feed horn arrangement that essentially creates two vertically separated main lobes, so that if the signal level from the lower (normal) main lobe diminishes sufficiently because of the wavefront's increased arrival angle, the other (upper) lobe will be better oriented. Because most fades are due to reflections and multipath effects rather than this anomalous superrefractive condition, angle diversity offers only a limited improvement factor over that of a non-diversity path under typical path conditions.

Hybrid diversity is where both frequency and space diversity are employed simultaneously. However, most of the improvement comes from the effect of the space diversity.

The following equation is used when calculating fade probabilities with various methods of diversity:

$$U_{div} = \frac{P_m}{I} \quad [\text{Eq. 5}]$$

where

U_{div} = unavailability or probability of outage (using some diversity method).

P_m = annual unavailability (non-diversity) due to multipath (Eq. 1).

I = diversity improvement factor (Eq. 3 and Eq. 4).

In multiple-hop microwave systems, the overall reliability figure (expressed as a percentage) is obtained by taking the sum of the unavailability figures (as a percentage) for each hop, and subtracting that figure from 100.

Conclusion

Many other considerations go into the complete design of a microwave path and communications link. Additionally, each of the points discussed can be taken in much greater depth. Volumes of information are available to the interested reader from many of the large communications companies, both past and present.

This series of articles has offered a glimpse into some of the more fundamental propagation-related design considerations and will be of value to those just getting their feet wet in the microwave communications field. ■

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Acknowledgments

A special thanks to Cesar Llanes for answering so many questions through the years.

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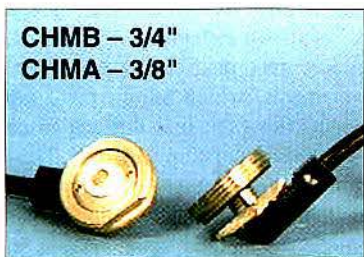
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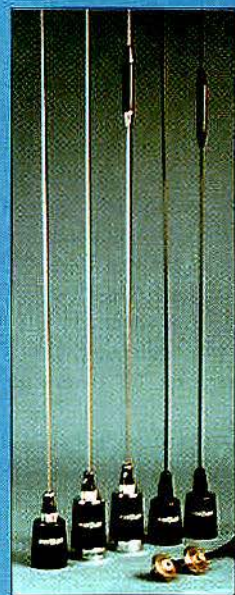
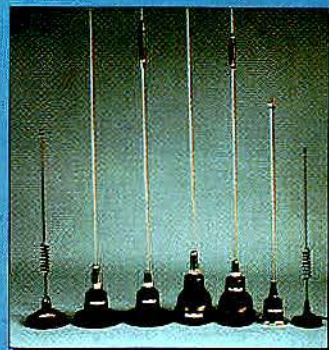
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Reinventing antennas

An effort to design a wideband antenna for trunking leads to an interesting new tool for multiple applications.

By Don Simon and Jack Daniel

Every now and then, a truly new concept comes along. This antenna is a major innovation.

Dan Kaegebein, principal engineer and one of the founders of TX RX Systems, sought to develop an antenna that would match the broadband capabilities of his patented "T-Pass" transmitter combiners.

Although the unit can combine channels over frequencies ranging from 800MHz to 960MHz into a single transmission line, there were no high-performance gain antennas that could match this wide bandwidth. This new antenna design is flat from 806MHz to 960MHz.

While trying to solve the bandwidth prob-

lem, Kaegebein created an antenna with secondary features desirable for most systems operating in the 800/900MHz bands.

We will use the 806MHz-to-960MHz wideband, 8dB-gain, omnidirectional antenna as an example.

Corporate-fed arrays

The new antenna uses "corporate (parallel) feed" to drive its eight vertically stacked dipoles, as shown in Figure 1 at the right.

Corporate feed distributes power equally to all elements, which allows for a wide beamwidth. However, it is difficult to construct antennas using corporate feed. The familiar folded-dipole arrays are the most common example. Unfortunately, all of the cable connections are exposed to the weather with

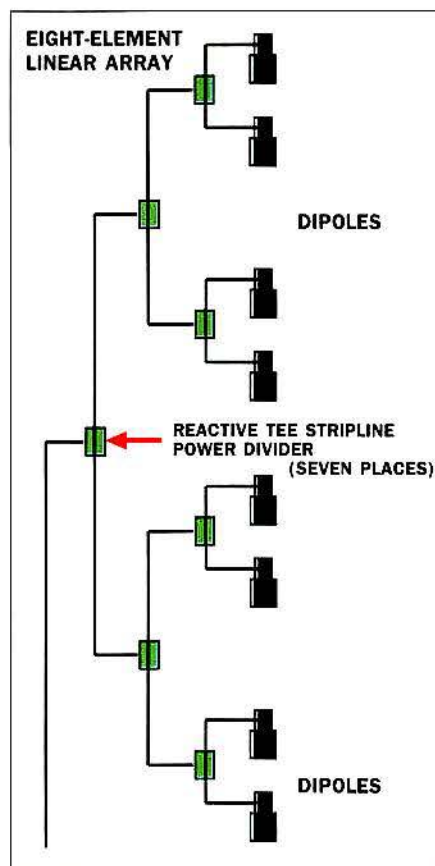


Figure 1: Corporate feed diagram.

Simon is the owner of Mountain States Marketing, a manufacturers' representative specializing in RF system and remote site design. Email: donsimon@frie.com.

Daniel is the owner of the Jack Daniel Company, a manufacturers' representative firm with extensive RF system design and integration activity. He is a fellow of the Radio Club of America and a member of MRT's editorial advisory board. He can be contacted through his company's Web site, www.rf-solutions.com.

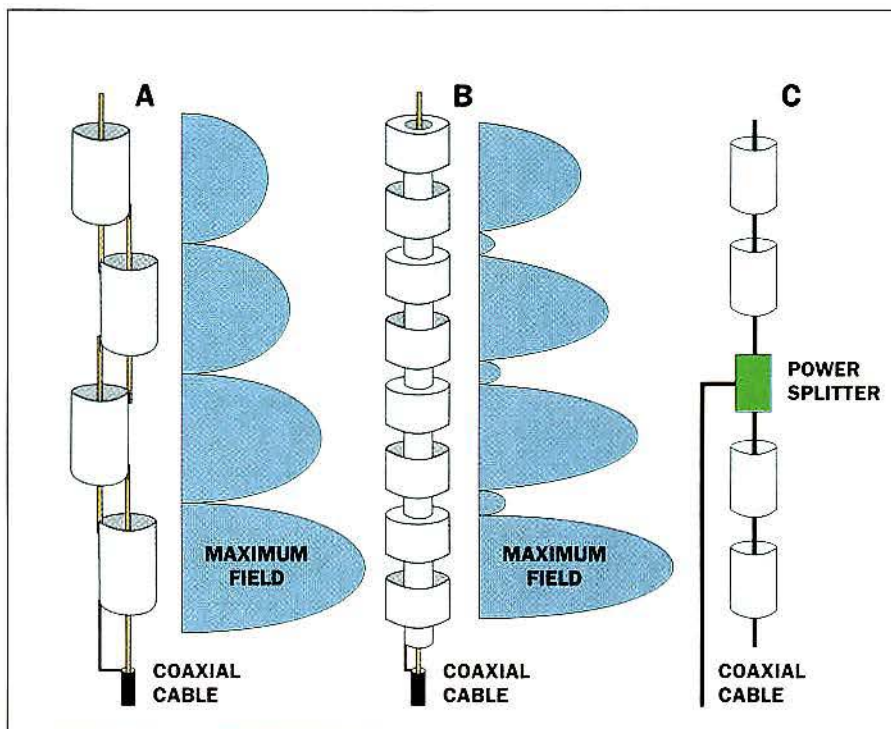


Figure 2. Series-type feeds.

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predictable results. The new antenna uses internal feed lines protected from the elements by a radome instead of coaxial cable harnesses.

Series-fed arrays

The most common stacked vertical arrays are "series-fed" as shown in Figures 2A and 2B on page 34. Transmit power is coupled to each dipole in sequence. This approach eliminates internal cabling. However, as the power is divided down, each dipole is less effective than the preceding one.

To improve the E-Plane (vertical) pattern in a series-fed antenna, elements must be added to produce gain equivalent to that of a corpo-

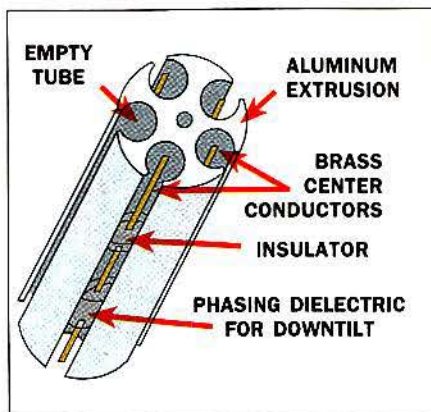


Figure 3. Mast perspective view.

rate-fed design. Adding elements increases the overall length, which magnifies wind, vibration and ice loading effects. Mechanical stability is difficult to maintain, and a shortened life is common. Longer arrays suffer increased tip deflection, which translates into more frequent "pattern deflection" problems.

The physics of coupling relationships makes building series-fed antennas with more than 15MHz of bandwidth difficult. This translates into more feed lines, antennas and site leases than we might like.

Pattern scanning

"Pattern scanning" is another problem for services with 45MHz transmit-to-receive splits in the 800MHz and 900MHz bands. Most series-fed antennas are designed for minimum "return loss" (VSWR) at the transmit frequency. However, this means the phase relationships at the receive frequency are not right. As a result, operating below the center frequency causes pattern *down-tilt*, while operating above the center frequency causes *up-tilt*. All of this leads to some interesting unbalance issues between the antenna performance on uplink vs. downlink.

Users have found at least one novel approach to reduce the effect of pattern scanning by feeding a splitter located in the center of the antenna and then series-feeding the elements above and below the splitter, as shown in Figure 2C. This allows the two halves of the antenna to act against each other to reduce scanning, but this may make the beamwidth of the antenna vary across the band.

Truly vertical antenna mounting, mechanical stability (*i.e.*, tip deflection) and tower deflection become critical when scanning is combined with narrow beamwidths.

Pattern deflection

Popular high-gain, series-fed antennas have narrow beamwidth (typically $\pm 3.5^\circ$ at zero downtilt). The combined effects of wind, ice, tip deflection, tower sway and mounting errors can lift the pattern off the ground, causing call drops during high wind. Pattern scanning just makes it worse.

Gain antennas reduce the beamwidth of an antenna, and the main power lobe can become quite small. For example, one well-known 9dB gain antenna has a $\pm 3\text{dB}$ beamwidth of 8° , meaning that the main beam power will be concentrated $\pm 3.5^\circ$ above and below the horizon, assuming the standard 0° downtilt version. If the tip of the antenna is deflected from a true vertical position by 3.5° , the signal will drop in two directions (the direction of the tilt and its opposite direction) by 3dB.

The combined effects of high winds, ice loading, tower sway and mounting error all contribute to this problem. The problem is compounded when the scanning effect of older antenna designs is included.

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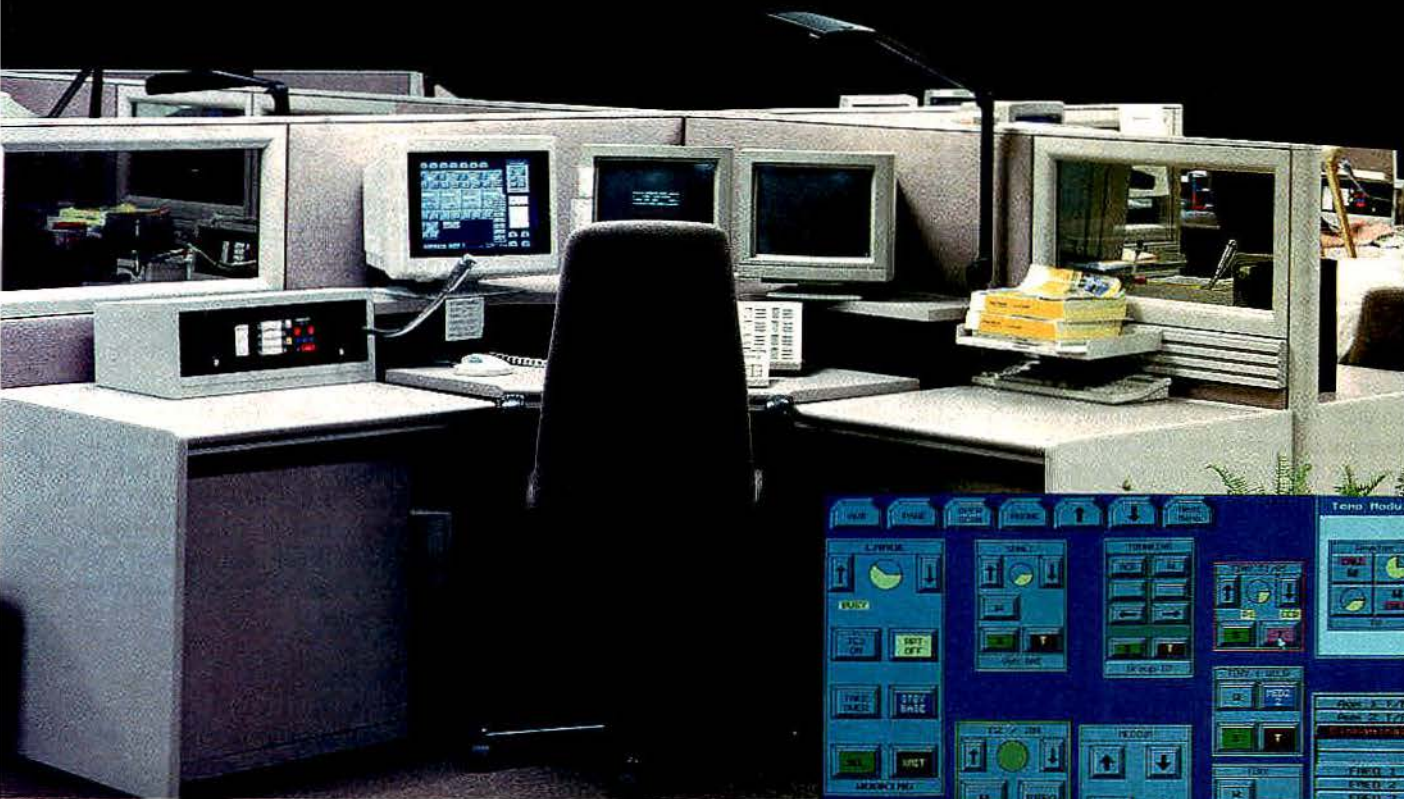


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problem. The antenna tip deflection is only 0.5° in a whopping 225mph wind, and the beamwidth is increased to 10°. The massive internal mast extrusion, short length (9.5 feet total for 8dB gain) and the 0.22-inch-thick fiberglass radome serve to make the antenna strong and rigid.

Corporate feed system

Figure 3 on page 36 illustrates the new method of implementing corporate feed in the antenna. The center mast of the antenna has five precisely extruded and machined tubes extending the full length. When a brass center conductor of the proper diameter is centered in these tubes, they become perfect air dielectric coaxial lines.

The clever use of low-loss air dielectric transmission lines matches the phasing characteristics of the broadband dipole elements, so there is an inherent mechanical match between the components. This makes the transmission line length equal to the dipole feed points. If ordinary coaxial cables were used, the propagation rates would be different, and mechanically matching the lengths would be nearly impossible.

Downtilt

Even the manner in which the antenna achieves downtilt is different. The designer placed a predetermined length of dielectric around the feed transmission line to the dipole, as shown in Figure 3. This changes the propagation of the transmission line, and therefore the phasing, between the dipoles. The length, not the position, of the dielectric insert determines the amount of downtilt. Existing antenna designs are for 3° and 5°. Other angles should be easy to produce.

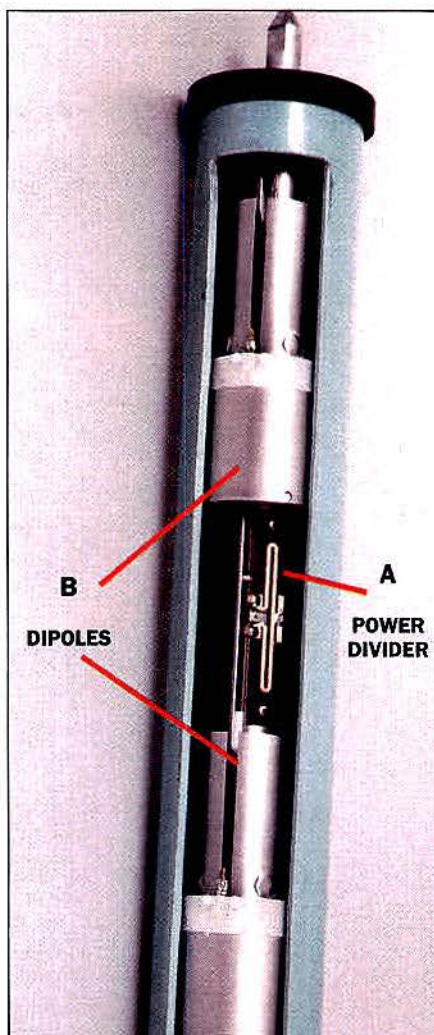


Photo 1. Cutaway view of the antenna.

The extruded mast also provides most of the mechanical strength and stability, extending the full length of the antenna. This huge

cross-section is an excellent low-resistance ground for the antenna. Lightning-induced failures should be rare.

Bandwidth improvements

The bandwidth of an antenna is primarily determined by frequency-sensitive coupling components and the diameter-to-frequency ratio of the dipoles. True coaxial mounting allows the dipoles in the new antenna to be many times larger than most early antenna designs, contributing to the record bandwidth. The use of air-line coupling virtually eliminates frequency sensitivity.

Reactive "T" power dividers required in the new antenna are constructed as shown in Photo 1, note A, at the left. The power dividers are of a broadband stripline design with low loss. The power divider is gold-plated to eliminate corrosion and intermodulation.

The dipoles shown in Photo 1 are arc-welded at all points for maximum mechanical strength and to eliminate any intermodulation due to corroded or broken joints, loose screws or any of the other common intermodulation sources. There are no metal screws connecting any conducting circuit in the antenna.

Power handling

The antenna is capable of handling 1,000W continuous input, allowing use with large SMR and paging combiners.

Mechanical considerations

Based on prior antenna construction and improved testing methods using antenna network analyzers, many system operators now assign an arbitrary antenna life of 18-24 months.

Most series-fed antennas derive their strength and wind/vibration resistance from the radome. The internal parts take a beating as the radome flexes and vibrates in the wind. The small internal joints fail from work-hardening of the materials, there is dissimilar metal corrosion, and jumpers are blown by high lightning currents.

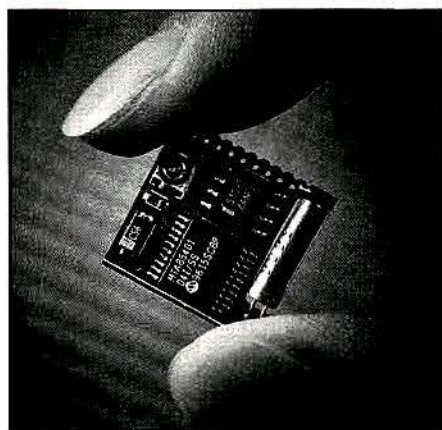
Applications

The new antenna is suited for rural cellular and SMR applications. Matching uplink and downlink patterns that assure hand-held coverage and fill will be consistent, with fewer dropped calls and reorders. The wide vertical beamwidth of the antenna will prevent pattern lifting and call drops during wind storms. The pattern will stay on the ground with the mobiles.

Paging operators will be able to combine operations at 902MHz, 929MHz-931MHz and 940MHz. Additional dual-antenna models are forthcoming in various combinations to reduce site rental costs.

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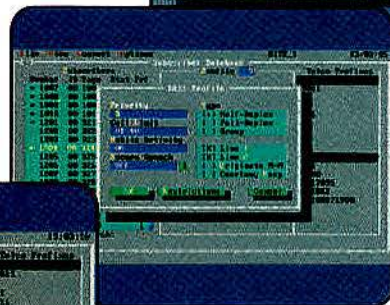
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Typical software screens, top to bottom:
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Time is tissue

While the wireless voice and data technologies supporting EMS improve, research assesses use of wireless networks to trigger response at the moment of collision.

By the MRT Staff

"Time is tissue" is a battle cry in the emergency medical services (EMS) community. Forced by definition to be reactive, EMS providers constantly seek ways wireless communications can reduce their response time.

Current advances include more efficient and useful radio communications and telemetry. Meanwhile, activity in Congress, supported by the EMS community, foreshadows a vast expansion of wireless systems to instantly notify ambulance and rescue units of automobile accidents.

En route preparation for the emergency scene is being enhanced by real-time messaging via wireless mobile information software. For example, the Packetcluster Rescue system from Cerulean Technology, Marlborough, MA, designed for fire and rescue response, has features applicable for EMS and for agencies with dual duties. Once an agency's computer-aided dispatch (CAD) or records management system (RMS) is tied into the server, responders can access details about the emergency scene from their vehicle. In addition to route displays, responders can view hazmat databases and identify any individuals at the site who have special requirements or medical conditions.

Coordination of shared communications among different ambulance providers is also a critical area. Several ambulance companies in Lansing, MI, using Motorola MTR2000 radios, had difficulty using an area hospital's repeater because the radios would not accommodate multiple use of the Private Line feature. State Electronics, Lansing, and Zetron, Redmond, WA, worked together to create a new interface assembly combined with a tone panel that allows the multiple PLs.

Several companies are also working to refine dispatch for EMS applications. American TriTech, San Diego, has developed the Windows NT-based VisiCAD for Ambulance system to give dispatchers data access and control, with redundancy, in a multitasking client/server system. EMS providers can customize the system for their operation and dispatch using point-and-click procedures.

On-site biomedical telemetry continues to improve as well. Racom Products, Cleveland,

has produced a cellular-based, full-duplex system to allow remote simultaneous transmission of voice and electrocardiogram (ECG) data to the base hospital from an accident or rescue site. The 3W Life-Tel system operates portably on lead-acid batteries.

Testimony before the U.S. House Telecommunications subcommittee this spring indicated the need for ubiquitous nationwide wireless networks to support wireless E9-1-1 calls. The committee's chairman, Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-LA), has introduced H.R. 3844, the "Wireless Communications and Public Safety Enhancement Act of 1998," which, among other things, calls for extensive development of automatic collision notification (ACN) technology to speed EMS and rescue response time.

"We heard of the importance of getting help to a victim of a car crash in the first 60 minutes—the 'golden hour,' and how speeding emergency services to the site can save lives," Tauzin said in June.

Section 6 of the bill proposes a funded R&D program, administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), for a comprehensive ACN system that transmits information about a crash to emergency personnel by a wireless telephone in the vehicle. The research would also develop a uniform wireless telephone interface for motor vehicles to permit transmission of crash data and voice-activated, hands-free use of all models of wireless telephones.

Jeffrey Michael, chief of the Emergency Medical Services Division of NHTSA, testified that the legislative agenda is in line with his agency's EMS agenda.

"NHTSA currently conducts crash research with trauma centers and trauma and EMS systems nationwide. ... In addition, our Crash Injury and Research Network currently provides NHTSA with a test bed for many of this section's goals. The agency's ACN deployment program in Erie County, NY,—the only complete ACN system—has experienced six crashes. In all cases, the system has worked effectively," Michael said.

David K. Aylward, executive director of the ComCARE Alliance, Washington, DC, a coalition of more than 20 EMS professional, public safety and wireless industry organizations, discussed one crash during the Erie County tests in May.

"A young man drove off a highway into a ravine. His car was part of a test funded by the DOT that put automatic crash notification technology in his car. Before he could get out of the car, the dispatcher was asking him over his car phone what condition he was in. Be-

fore he could limp back to the highway, emergency personnel were there to help him," Aylward said.

John Melcher, director of information systems for the Greater Harris Co. 9-1-1 Emergency Network, Houston, also testified in support of ACN.

"Networks must be configured to accept automatic crash notification information and other live data. ... This may sound like a developmental project of NASA proportions, but it is, simply, a matter of using existing tools in a collec-

tive and coordinated fashion. Integrating voice and data via digital networks is nothing dramatically new.

"The example [Congress sets] will forge the relationships necessary to integrate wireless service providers, trauma care specialists and 9-1-1 professionals," Melcher said. ■





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Circle (44) on Fast Fact Card

In pursuit of interoperability

Data gathered by the Justice Department provide a snapshot of where law enforcement agencies are now with communications interoperability—and where they think they're going.

By D.A. Keckler

Interoperability standards, the protocols that permit a common interface between different communication systems, are a high-profile issue in public safety communications. The capability for law enforcement officers to coordinate their activities with other agencies (and to maintain constant communication while passing through other radio systems in situations like high-speed pursuit) is critical.

In 1996, the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) advised the FCC and NTIA that "Unless immediate measures are taken to alleviate spectrum shortfalls and promote interoperability, public safety agencies will not be able to adequately discharge their obligation to

protect life and property in a safe, efficient, and cost-effective manner." The FCC did approve an allocation of 24MHz in January, but spectrum is only part of the equation. The efficiency of radio systems depends on both radio frequency availability and compatibility.

As Tom Tolman, manager of communications technology for the National Law Enforcement and Technology Center—Rocky Mountain Region (NLECTC-RM), Denver, told *MRT*, "There is a nationwide, growing problem of interoperability, and it's not a static thing, it's a dynamic, growing problem."

"What we're facing is that the margin of safety for the community, as well as for the law enforcement officials, is diminishing. It's only a matter of time ... where a

loss of life will be directly attributed to interoperability," Tolman said.

Tolman is co-author (with Mary Taylor, senior research analyst, Denver Research Institute, University of Denver and Robert C. Epper, deputy director, Technology Programs, NLECTC-RM) of a study released earlier this year on wireless communications and interoperability among state and local law enforcement agencies. The study presents the results of a 1997 nationwide survey of agencies on their current and planned use of communications equipment and services and of their experience with interoperability. The study, conducted by NLECTC-RM, was supported by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

"We don't want this to be another bureaucratic, go-nowhere, do-nothing, 'oh, that's nice,' sit-on-the-shelf report," Tolman said. "We want this to be a living, breathing, active tool that can be utilized."

NIJ's projects emphasize state and local agencies, which cannot fund their own research, Tolman said. "We're an intercessor or advocate for state and local agencies."

Questionnaires were mailed to all U.S. agencies with more than 100 sworn officers and to a stratified random sample of smaller agencies across the country. More than 1,300 agencies responded, which, with telephone followup, produced a response rate of nearly 50%—a particularly large response.

Key findings of the study were:

□ Interoperability is common, with 82% of agencies having at least one channel dedicated solely for use with other organizations. (See Figure 1 at the left.) Although most agencies are confident of their ability to handle routine situations, many experience serious obstacles, particularly when trying to communicate with agencies beyond their local network or

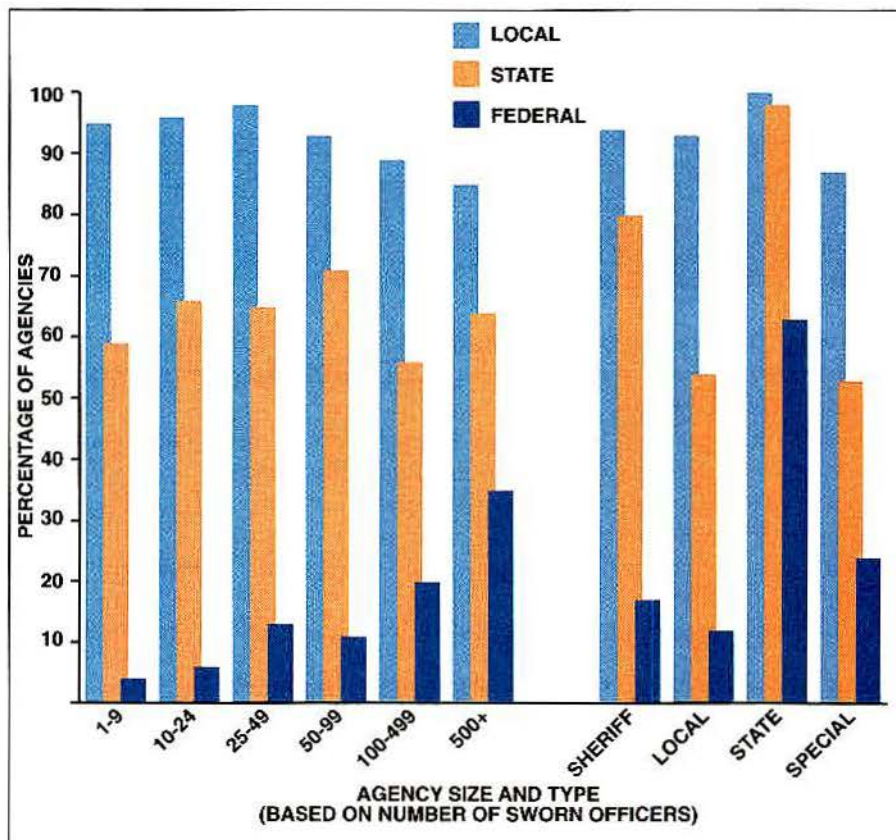


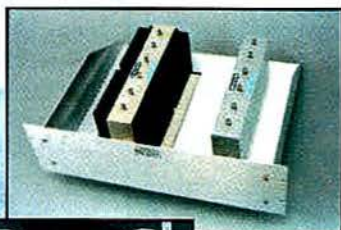
Figure 1. Interoperability is extremely common for law enforcement agencies of all sizes and types, with 93% of agencies that responded to the survey indicating that they interoperate on a daily or weekly basis with local organizations. Interoperation with state agencies occurs among 63%, but only 15% interoperate with federal agencies daily or weekly.

Keckler is features editor.

The full NLECTC report is available online through the Justice Information Web site, www.ncjrs.org.

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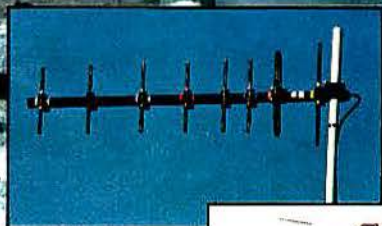
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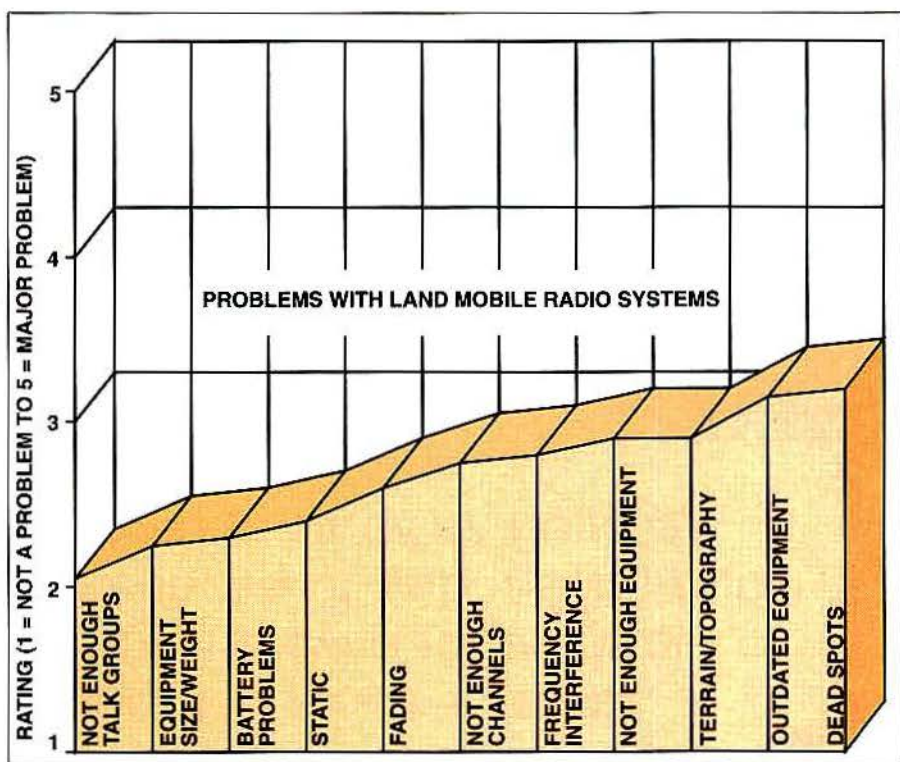


Figure 2. Law enforcement agencies surveyed identified dead spots and outdated equipment as the most common and serious problems with their radio systems. All the above technical problems compete with interoperability for radio system funding.

operating in different frequency bands. incompatibility were identified as the biggest interoperability problems.

□ Limitations in funding and frequency

□ Thirty-five percent think state or federal mandates are needed to ensure interoperability, but the majority believe local planning best meets their needs. Many agencies indicated that funding assistance would make mandates more acceptable.

□ Discrepancies in state and local perceptions about the existence of formal state interoperability plans suggest a need for more dialogue between state and local law enforcement agencies.

□ Most agencies have conventional analog systems and operate in high VHF bands, but information from agencies planning to replace or upgrade their systems within 10 years (46% percent of the total) indicated that the number of agencies operating at 800MHz will about double, as will those using digital systems. The use of trunked systems is also expected to increase.

□ Most radio spectrum is used for voice transmissions, but the number of agencies devoting channels to data-only transmissions is increasing. Plans for use of new technologies and mobile or portable computers will increase the need for additional spectrum. The use of laptops (projected to double in the next 10 years) is currently replacing mobile data terminals in larger agencies.

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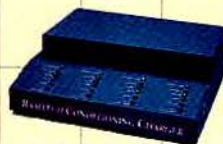
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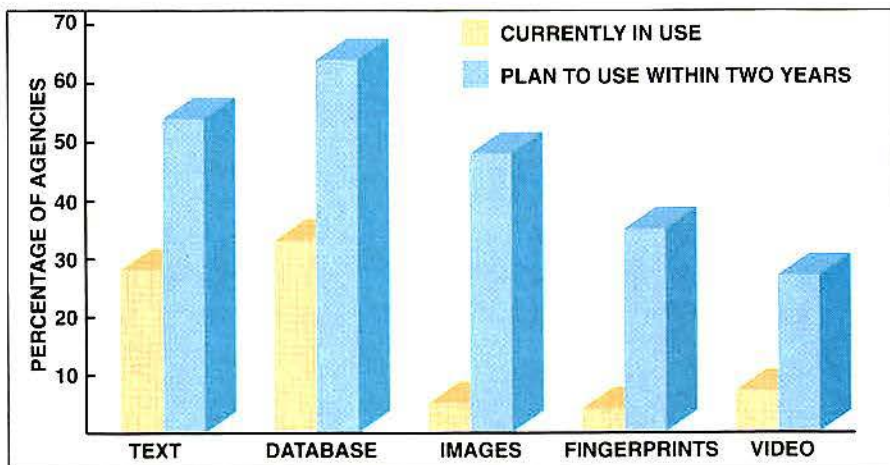


Figure 3. Current and planned use of wireless data transmissions.

□ Dead spots and outdated equipment are the most common problems with radio systems. (See Figure 2 on page 44.) More than half of the agencies that complained of outdated equipment (older than 10 years) had plans to replace or upgrade their radio systems.

□ Channel congestion, a serious problem for almost half the agencies, is much less of a problem for agencies with trunked systems. Large and state agencies indicated the greatest need and requested the greatest number of additional channels.

□ The use of voice and data security measures is increasing in all agencies. Large and state agencies currently are the most likely to use security measures.

Wireless data

Tolman pointed out that the report demonstrates "a growing demand for spectrum in other areas, such as data." Text, imaging, video, database use and fingerprint transmission are all expected to increase over the next two years, as shown in Figure 3 above.

More than 90% of respondents have channels dedicated to voice-only transmissions, 27% have some channels dedicated to data-only and 19% use alternate voice and data channels. The need for additional data-only channels shows the greatest rate of increase, even though the greatest overall need is for more voice-only channels, the report found. The number of law enforcement agencies that will be using electronic text for reports and queries, and database information, on MDTs and laptops will double in the next two years.

Familiarity with standards

Larger agencies were found to be more familiar than smaller ones with interoperability initiatives such as the FCC frequency application process, Project 25 interoperability standards (as shown in Figure 4 on page 48) and National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) guidelines.

About 70% of respondents said interoperability issues and standards were important to the purchase of their next land mobile radio system. About a third of respondents indicated they were very likely to adopt Project 25 interoperability standards for their next land mobile radio system, another third were somewhat likely, and 19% were very unlikely. The likelihood of adopting Project 25 standards was not dependent on agency familiarity with the standards, the report found.

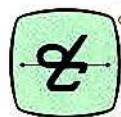
Tolman agreed that there are many reasons for smaller agencies being "out of the loop" regarding standards. Inexperience among communications managers, time demands in a small department and

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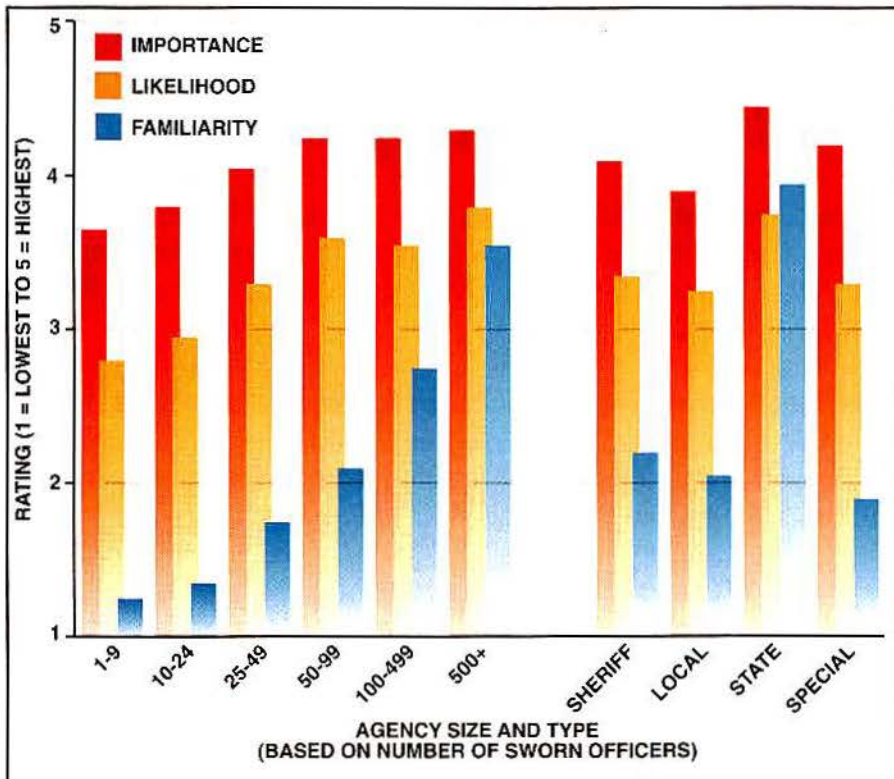


Figure 4. Comparisons of importance ratings of interoperability standards, the likelihood of adopting Project 25 standards and agency familiarity with Project 25 standards. Of all respondents, 70% deemed interoperability standards to be a consideration for their next system purchase. The least familiarity with the standards occurs in small, local agencies.

small budgets are all factors, he said. About 75% of the roughly 19,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies have fewer than 25 sworn officers, so familiarity with communications standards may be wanting.

Funding for interoperability

The sense of competition for funding is acute among agencies. All agencies surveyed rated "limitations in funding" and "different bands" as the two biggest obstacles to interoperability, as shown in Figure 5 on page 49. Overall, 69% percent of respondents rated limitations in funding as a severe problem. Agencies that rated funding limits as a serious problem also rated both their radio system's ability and their agency's ability to handle different types of interoperability situations significantly lower than did agencies satisfied with their funding.

"This is one of the primary drivers toward regionalization," Tolman said. "Jurisdictions are realizing it's in their best interest to combine communications centers and simply pool their resources." (See "Blue Ridge ..." News, page 65.) The real choice may be whether to get three new patrol cars, hire two new employees or upgrade the radios, he said.

"This interoperability study has accom-

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plished a lot of the things that we wanted to, it's gained a lot of favorable publicity, and it's being utilized around the country by smaller agencies," Tolman said.

In June, at the urging of Associate Attorney General Raymond C. Fisher, work began on a "short, high-end" videotape presentation of the study targeted for audiences such as the National League of Cities, the National Governors Association and state legislators.

The success of the law enforcement survey has also prompted urging from the FCC to identify the communications needs of fire and EMS agencies. NLECTC is currently working with the Public Safety Wireless Network to develop that study, which should be completed this fall, Tolman said. The study will be logistically more difficult because of the larger number of fire and EMS agencies, compared to law enforcement, and the volunteer nature of many local departments, which makes it difficult to reach them.

Although many studies look for the "big discovery," Tolman said the NLECTC report really provides validation for what many believed to be true about law enforcement communications, but could not quantify.

"This study is a collective voice," Tolman said. "The agencies spoke." ■

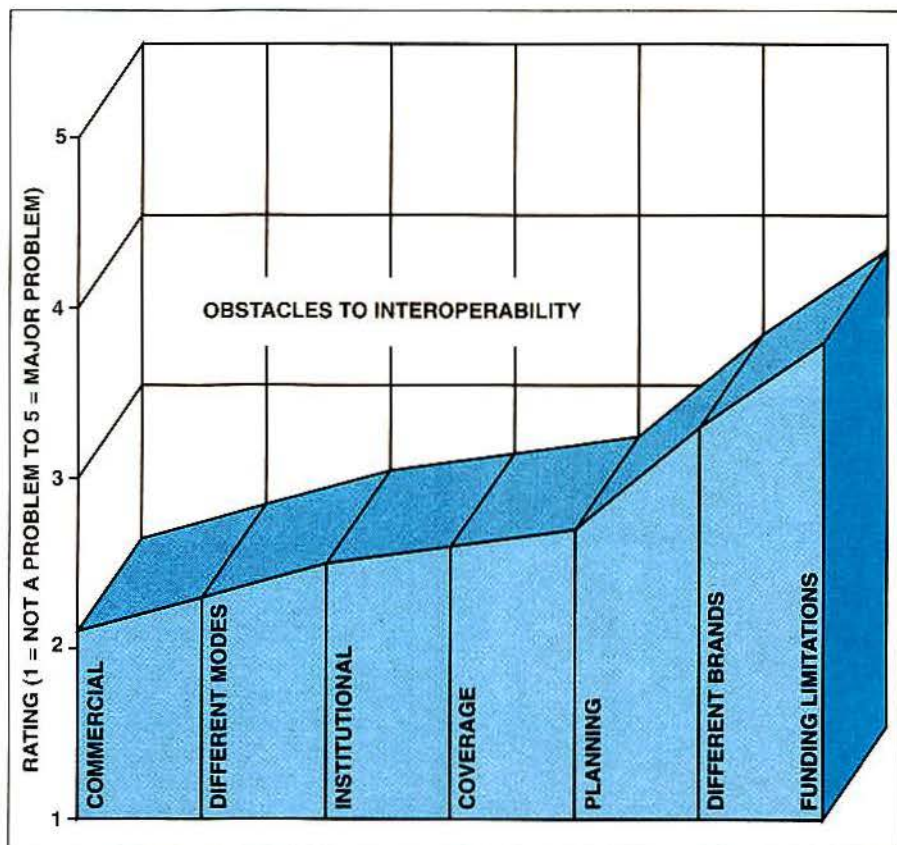


Figure 5. The perceived obstacles to interoperability among survey respondents. The top of the hill for most agencies is limitations in funding.

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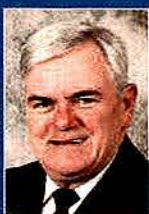
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Circle (64) on Fast Fact Card

APCO International, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, presents the 64th APCO Conference and Exposition. It will take place Aug. 9-13, 1998 in Albuquerque, NM. APCO is the world's oldest and largest not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of public safety communications.

APCO Officers



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Joe McNeil



President Elect
Jack Keating



First
Vice President
Joe Hanna



Second
Vice President
Lyle Gallagher

Glen Nash will be elected as second vice president of APCO at this year's conference. He is running, uncontested, following Barry Furey's withdrawal from the campaign. Nash has been involved in public safety communications for 25 years, 14 of those as a supervisor. He has been a member of APCO for 11 years, and has served two one-year terms as president of the Northern California Chapter for APCO and six other years on various chapter offices.

"I think my active involvement at both the local and association levels of APCO speaks well to my ability to provide sound leadership and to my dedication in serving APCO," Nash said.

Conference Highlights

Conference Seminars

Conference seminars will cover several major topics such as innovative technologies, management and planning strategies, telecommunication training and interaction, 9-1-1 practices and procedures, and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance.

Session titles include: Responding to the Deaf Community; Loving Evaluations; Mayday Plus; Ergonomics of Mobile Computing; 3-1-1 Update; APCO ADA Committee Roundtable; Hazardous Materials Emergencies: Are You Ready?; Stress Awareness and Management; Justice in Self Evaluations and Audits; Attitudes and Atmosphere; The Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales; Debugging Your Dispatch.

Please consult the Conference Pocket Guide in the registration packet at the show for the final agenda and presentation schedule.

General Information

APCO Pavilion

APCO will sponsor a pavilion in the exhibit hall again this year. If you have questions or would like more information on APCO International, please stop by the pavilion and talk to staff from APCO headquarters.

MANAPCO Night

The Albuquerque Civic Plaza will be the site of the exhibitor-sponsored 1998 MANAPCO event. The Civic Plaza is located directly behind the convention center. MANAPCO Night will be a native American experience for all fully-registered attendees. There will be Indian music and dancers, a balloon glow, Mariachi bands and a popular local band playing 60s, 70s and 80s music. Merchants from the Albuquerque area will display jewelry and pottery for sale.

The event will feature New Mexico foods such as guacamole salad and tri-colored chips, tortillas, tamales, enchiladas, fajitas, burritos, barracho beans and Spanish rice, Mexican pastries and much more. Non-hosted bars will include beer, wine, Margaritas and sodas.

Shuttle buses will provide transportation to and from the Plaza. The shuttle schedule will be provided in the program guide.

Audio Tapes

Conference sessions will be audiotaped. Only those presenters who have given their consent will have their seminars taped. Audio tapes of the seminars and sessions may be purchased. Order forms will be available at the registration area of the convention center.

Special Activities

All those participating in special activities programs will depart from the convention center, east wing, south side.

Keynote Speakers:

Commissioner Gloria Tristani of the FCC

Tristani has served on the FCC since November 1997. Before that, she served on the New Mexico State Corporation Commission, where she was the first woman elected to that office. She has served on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commission's communications committee. In 1996, she was named one of the nation's 100 most influential Hispanics by *Hispanic Business* magazine. She received her undergraduate degree from Bernard College of Columbia University and her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

She will address the opening luncheon.

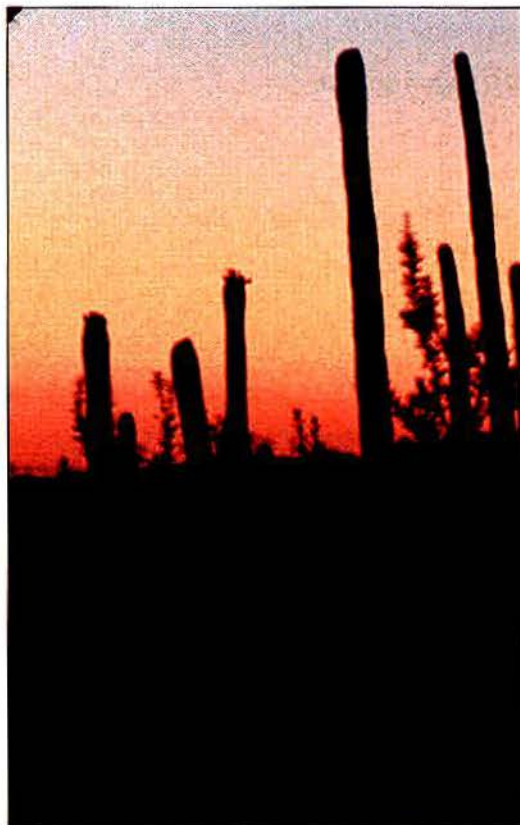
Sam Silverstein

Silverstein will present "You are the Star," a motivational session. He teaches that success has always been within our grasp if we would only accept responsibility for it. He will present five elements for all successful endeavors and direct applications for balancing both professional and personal goals. Silverstein teaches personal and professional empowerment and helps organizations internationally become more effective in managing change and learning leadership skills.

Michael Fortino

Fortino will present "Preparing for 2000." His program will focus on the idea that in order to be successful in the workplace, people need to keep up in this technological era. He will give suggestions on learning and managing the change in the information age.

Fortino is the president and founder of the Center for Lifestyle Management with offices in Pittsburgh and San Francisco. He is a renowned speaker, particularly recognized for his dynamic, motivational and humorous presentations.



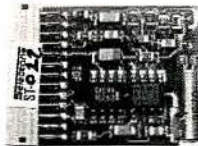
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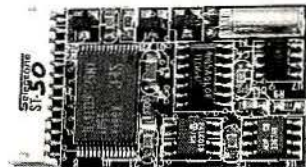
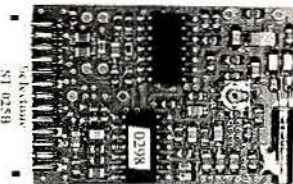
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Conference Agenda

Monday, August 10

7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.
10:30 a.m. - Noon

Registration Open
Regulatory Panel
First Special Open Session
(Sam Silverstein)
Opening Luncheon/Keynote Address
Special Activity Tour
(registered participants only)
First General Business Session
APCO National Plan Committee
APCO Meets with other coordinators
Route 66 Party
(bring your jeans and poodle skirts)

Noon - 2 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
8:30 p.m. - Midnight

Tuesday, August 11

7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
10:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Registration Open
Concurrent Sessions
Grand Opening of Exhibits
Exhibits Open
Exclusive Exhibit Hours
Concurrent Sessions
Concurrent Sessions

Wednesday, August 12

7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Registration Open
Concurrent Sessions
Special Activities Tour
(registered participants only)

Thursday, August 13

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Noon - 2 p.m.
Noon - 2 p.m.
Noon - 2 p.m.
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Exhibits Open
Exclusive Exhibit Hours
Past Presidents/Life Member Luncheon
Frequency Advisor Luncheon
Chapter Presidents/Secretaries Luncheon
Concurrent Sessions
Concurrent Sessions

Friday, August 14

7 a.m. - 1 p.m.
8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Registration Open
Concurrent Sessions
Corporate Advisory Committee
Concurrent Sessions
Concurrent Sessions
Special Activity Tour
(registered participants only)
Concurrent Sessions
Special Session II
(Michael Fortino)
Closing Reception
Closing Banquet
Enchanted Evening

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
10 p.m.

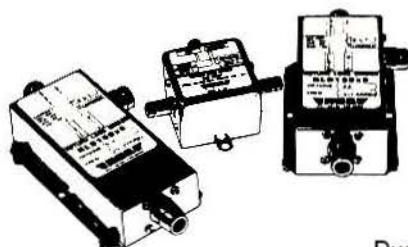
Saturday, August 15

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Special Activities Tour
(registered participants only)
APCO Golf Tournament
Post Conference Meeting
Board of Officers Meeting

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
4 p.m.

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FEATURES:

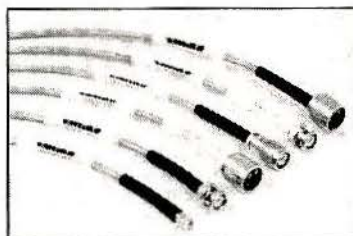
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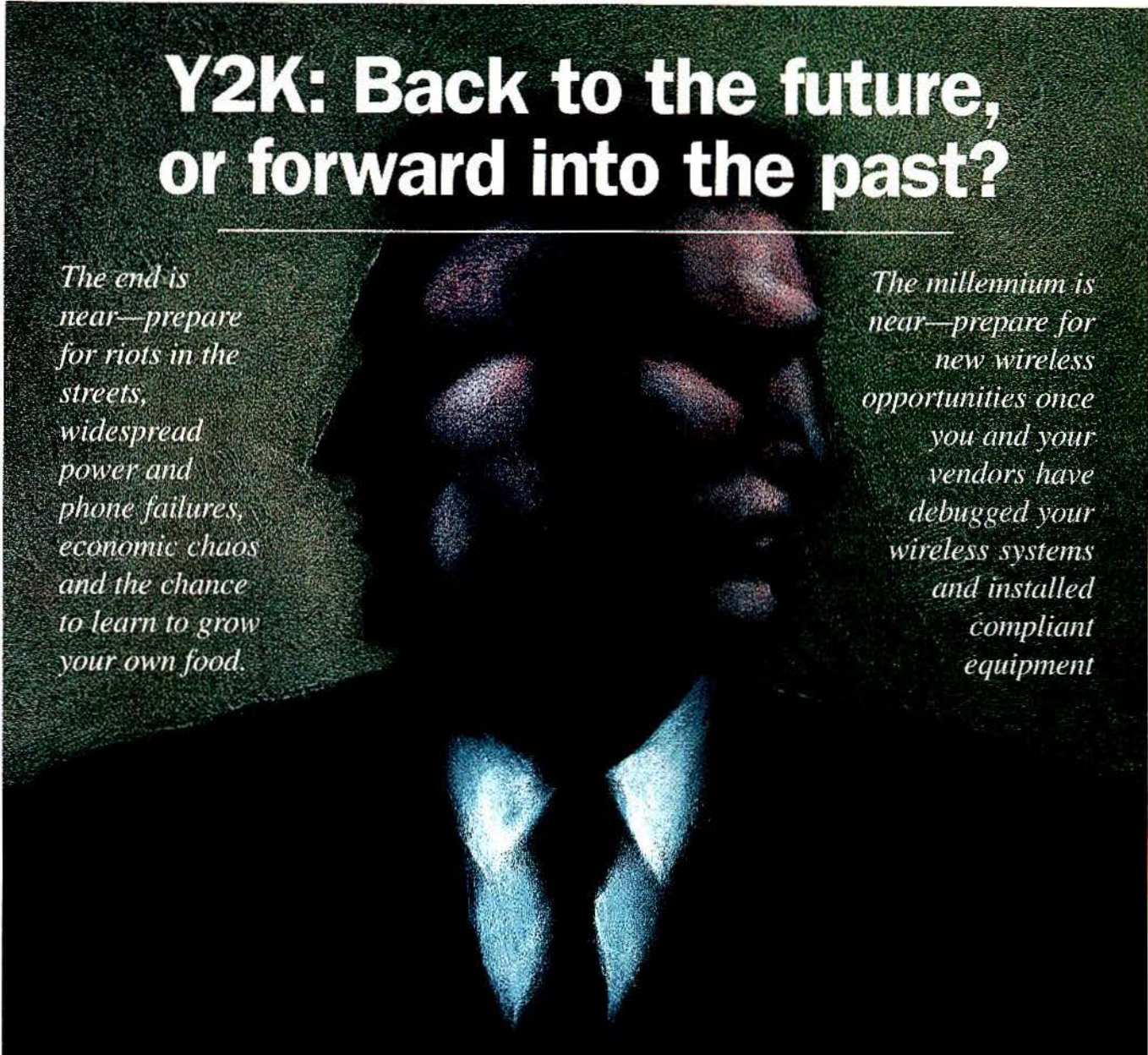
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Circle (35) on Fast Fact Card

Y2K: Back to the future, or forward into the past?



The end is near—prepare for riots in the streets, widespread power and phone failures, economic chaos and the chance to learn to grow your own food.

The millennium is near—prepare for new wireless opportunities once you and your vendors have debugged your wireless systems and installed compliant equipment

By Emily Reid

The "Year 2000 Problem" (Y2K) is haunting every business in the world, from the smallest mom-and-pop restaurant, to the largest multinational investment banking firm. Everyone has the same problem, the same solutions to pick from—and the same deadline. That includes the mobile communications industry. There are 16 months left to fix the largest problem in the history of computer science.

Back in the 1950s and '60s, when computer programming was a developing concept, and no one realized how dependent the entire world would become on computers, Y2K was born. Programmers decided that to

save memory storage, which then was extremely expensive, they would store dates as two numbers instead of four. Thus "1958" became "58." Most programmers realized that this system would not work for years after 1999 because every January 1, the computer takes the old year and adds one to it to get the new year. For example, 97+1 = 98. However, 99+1 does not equal 00, and 00-1 does not equal 99. That is the problem. Who would have thought that simple, first-grade math could have such serious implications?

At the time programmers originally designed this code, most of them assumed that their programs would become obsolete long before 2000. Unfortunately, that is not the case. This problem has been de-

scribed as the greatest challenge ever to face information system managers. Fixing the old software would require today's programmers to go line by line through millions of lines of code to correct the date calculation. The options are: either figure out a way to fix it, or buy all new equipment and software. The latter is not feasible for most smaller businesses, and fixing it is not all that cheap, either. Experts predict the overall cost of solving Y2K to be between \$300 and \$600 billion (all of which is known as "ugly money" by agencies with fixed budgets.) This estimate does not include the costs of lawsuits that will undoubtedly arise, which could as much as

Reid is editorial assistant.

double the cost.

Y2K could lead to such serious complications as widespread power outages and banking failures. There are serious consequences for the mobile communications industry as well. Wireless phone systems could fail just at the time when they are needed most. Many people will depend on their cellular or PCS phones should landline phones go down Jan. 1, 2000. Although this is an important issue, many experts feel that public safety and its supporting industries are the most important group affected by the Y2K problem. What happens when we call 9-1-1, and no one answers? What if no one can call the police? Crime could run rampant in the streets—there would be no control.

Many police departments across the country are already prepared for the coming of 2000. The Houston police department began its efforts about three years ago. It designated several programmers to dedicate their time completely to solving Y2K. Departments in Boston and Detroit underwent similar programs and now have systems that are ready for the new millennium.

Many groups around the world are just beginning to realize the seriousness of the Y2K problem. It has taken some agencies as long as 10 years to solve their Y2K problems. Those who have not taken this problem seriously are in for a shock. The deadline



for finding a solution is absolutely immovable. As "01-01-2000" draws nearer, solutions will become more and more expensive.

Some observers even predict that Y2K will bring about the end of civilization as we know it. Already, people are considering taking all of their money out of the bank and

liquidating assets in preparation. These scenarios are highly unlikely, however, because several large companies have already solved their Y2K problems, proving that it is possible. Hundreds of consulting companies are available around the world that specialize in Y2K solutions. It is just a matter of finding the right one to fit each company's needs.

Another twist in the Y2K problem is that once a solution is found that may work, there is still a huge amount of work yet to be finished. Testing is a large portion of solving Y2K. About half of the resources allocated to solve the problem will be allotted to testing. Hundreds of different components in every public and private sector network are affected by the date change, and every one must be tested thoroughly.

A key problem in solving Y2K is that we will not be 100% sure how effective the solutions are until "01-01-2000" has come and gone, and all of the different systems affected by Y2K have had a chance to work together. Many networks are codependent. For example, for someone to access his financial institution through Quicken, his computer system must be compliant, as well as the power supplier's, the bank's and the phone company's. If there is one flaw in any of these levels, the transaction will not work. Even if the systems are individually compliant, it is possible that they may not work

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together as they did before the date change.

Wireless equipment manufacturers are also tracking the problem. Ericsson assures on the Y2K portion of its Web site that its products "will be functional, provided that all product including software not delivered by or licensed from Ericsson must accurately exchange date data information according to the agreed interoperability test specification." Ericsson is also contributing to initiatives dealing with multivendor network interoperability testing.

What we really need is a big, worldwide dress rehearsal for the millennium change—an undertaking so big it probably could never happen. Such a rehearsal would give us a much better idea of what works and with what. Some experts say that it will take about a week to fix all of the unexpected things that go wrong to make all systems compliant with each other and the new date once "01-01-2000" arrives.

Hewlett-Packard recommends developing a Central Project Office as the best first step to take in solving a company's Y2K problems. This office ensures that the appropriate activities, resources and project plans are being deployed to minimize the exposure to risks related to Y2K. Steps taken include: assessing the situation (6% of resources), developing a strategy (20%), implementing the

changes (20%), testing (40%) and redeploying applications (14%). These are basic guidelines that HP recommends all businesses follow to achieve Y2K compliance.

In a July *USA Today* article, Wall Street economist Edward Yardeni of Deutsche Bank Securities said that there is a 70% chance that Y2K will cause a recession, possibly as severe as the one in 1973-74 caused by the Arab oil embargo. He believes that it would result from investors pulling out of the stock market as they lose confidence in the ability

of various companies to solve Y2K. He believes that a recession may begin as early as next year.

Companies need to understand that Y2K compliance must be a top priority. They must provide the personnel, time and resources to get the problem fixed, and soon. That is the only way that society will be able to continue functioning the way it has been. The sooner this problem is fixed, the more confident everyone will be, and we will be able to avoid an economic crisis. The time to act is now. ■

Y2K information sites on the Web

Government

FCC: www.fcc.gov/year2000

GSA: www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/mks/yr2000



Business and industry

Motorola: www.mot.com/General/year2000

Ericsson: www.ericsson.com/y2k/year2000

Nortel: www.nortel.com/year2000

Lucent Technologies: www.lucent.com/enterprise/sig/yr2000

Hewlett-Packard: www.hp.com/year2000

Siemens: www.siemens.com/products/year2000

3COM: www.3com.com/products/yr2000

www.year2000.com/y2karticles

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Continuing EMC issues

By Harold Kinley, C.E.T.

The May "Technically Speaking" column addressed electromagnetic compatibility problems with electronic control modules (ECM) and radio communication equipment within the confines of motor vehicles. A specific problem was discussed along with test procedures to determine its severity. This column continues that discussion and highlights what has been done since that time.

The problem involved International transport trucks used to transport forestry fire-suppression "crawler" tractors. To recap, the ECM that was used to control the automatic transmission (Allison) and manufactured specifically by Motorola is causing severe degradation to the VHF high-band radio (Motorola) installed in the truck. The truck is a 1996 model International 4900 transport

module, but by a module controlling the running of the engine. The engine does not have to be running for the noise to be generated. Simply turning on the ignition switch starts the noise. The ECM, manufactured by Cummins, is mounted on the engine block. Removing the fuse to this controller stopped the noise. This was a step in diagnosing the source, not in solving the problem, because the motor cannot operate with the fuse removed.

Consultation with Motorola's engineers raised the issue of just where the noise was entering the radio. Based on prior tests, it was my contention that the noise was radiated and picked up by the antenna and not conducted through the cabling. However, one of the engineers suggested placing ferrites on all cabling leading to the radio—coax line, power cable and speaker cable. This had minor results. The engineer's suggestion was to do more of this with better ferrites.

at the receiver output. Then, with the ignition switch on and the EMI present, the signal generator level was increased to again produce 12dB SINAD. The difference between the two signal generator levels is equal to the amount of degradation caused by the EMI.

A new "non-invasive" test procedure was devised for convenience and integrity. There was no physical change to the receiving system cabling, so the test itself did not change the situation. Also, this was more convenient because the radio was mounted within the console above the windshield, and access to the radio was difficult. To get RF coupling from the signal generator, a magnetic antenna was placed near the radio's antenna on top of the truck cab. With the magnetic antenna connected to the signal generator, the desired on-channel RF signal was coupled into the radio's antenna and at the same time, isolated from it by distance, as shown in Figure 2 on page 57.

A speaker was connected to the input of the SINAD meter and then placed close to the radio's speaker. This acoustic coupling was sufficient to drive the SINAD meter input. Double-sided adhesive foam helped to hold the coupling speaker to the radio speaker during the test procedure. Thus, the entire test setup was "non-invasive," that is, the system cabling was not disturbed at all, as shown in Figure 3 on page 58.

First, with the radio's antenna whip connected and the truck ignition switch turned off, the signal generator was set to produce 12dB SINAD and the signal generator level was recorded in dBm. Next, the ignition switch was turned on and the signal generator level was increased to produce 12dB SINAD. At one frequency, 151.400MHz, the signal generator level had to be increased by 11dB to overcome the EMI. At 159.420MHz, the signal generator

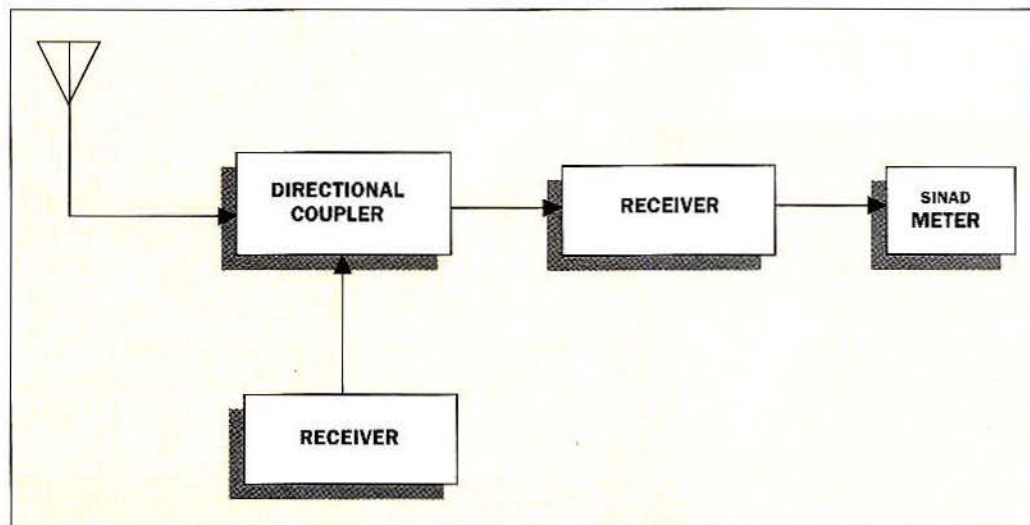


Figure 1: This test setup was originally used to determine the severity of the interference.

truck with Allison automatic transmission—World Transmission model WT2 with shift lever control.

Another larger truck, also manufactured by International, exhibited severe interference to the radio. The interference locked the scanner on a specific channel even though that channel was programmed for a CTCSS tone squelch. The noise rendered the radio virtually useless at that particular frequency. Unfortunately, that frequency is critically important for that particular truck. The inability to use that frequency places severe limitations on the usefulness of the transport truck.

It turns out that this noise problem was not caused by the automatic transmission control

The engineers left, the truck was returned to its normal location—and the noise persisted. Because the truck was located in a rural area where the local RF noise should be quite low, I decided to perform more on-site tests to further pin down the source of entry of the RF noise into the receiver. Could it be entering through the cabling, or was it entering through the antenna? This issue had to be resolved. The previous test procedure that was used to determine the amount of degradation caused by the electromagnetic interference (EMI) involved the use of a directional coupler connected as shown in Figure 1 above. In the absence of the EMI, the signal generator was set to produce 12dB SINAD

at the receiver output. Then, with the ignition switch on and the signal generator level was increased to produce 12dB SINAD. At one frequency, 151.400MHz, the signal generator level had to be increased by 11dB to overcome the EMI. At 159.420MHz, the signal generator

Kinley, a certified electronics technician, is regional communications manager, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Spartanburg, SC. He is a member of the Radio Club of America. He is the author of *Standard Radio Communications Manual: With Instrumentation and Testing Techniques*, which is available for direct purchase. Write to 204 Tanglewylde Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29301. Kinley's email address is hkinley@aol.com.

level had to be increased by 7dB to overcome the EMI. The amount of degradation is frequency-dependent.

Next, with the spring and quarterwave whip removed from the radio's antenna mount, the same test was repeated. This time there was no difference between having the ignition switch turned on and turned off. This indicated that the point of pickup for the EMI was not the cabling but the antenna whip itself. After all, the cabling was the same. The only difference was the removal of the antenna spring and whip from the radio's antenna mount. Obviously, a much greater signal level was required from the signal generator to produce 12dB SINAD with the radio's antenna spring and whip removed.

Though we have been persistent in our efforts to get the manufacturers to fix these problems, to date they remain virtually unabated. However, some reduction was achieved on certain frequencies by changing the frequency of the microprocessor crystal. Sufficient relief is yet to be obtained. Again, I will keep you posted on further actions and developments in future columns.

* * *

On the subject of vehicular EMC problems, I received a letter from H.M. "Jack" Tibbetts, senior manager of cellular systems for CellularOne in Burlington, MA.

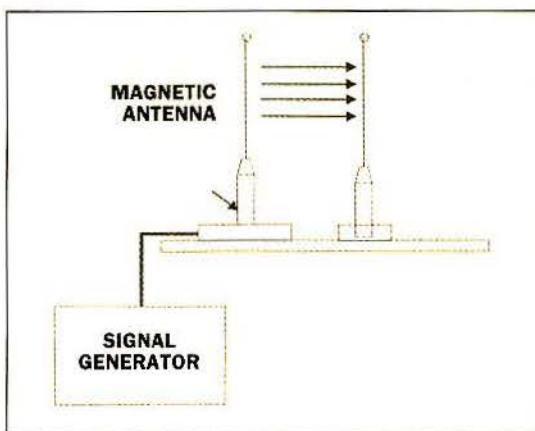


Figure 2: A magnetic antenna couples the signal from the signal generator into the receiver without the need for direct connections to the radio.

An excerpt from his letter follows.

Your article (May 1998) brought to mind similar experiences that I had. In the early years of vehicle ECUs, a customer of the service shop I was working for brought in his new Cadillac to have us install the latest GE Executive II 150MHz IMTS unit.

We installed and tested the unit, and he left happy. About a month later he came back for us to repair a small problem. We were talking during the course of the repair, and I asked him how he liked his new car. He lamented that he was having a lot of trouble

with it and was tired of making repeated trips to the dealer. I inquired about the car problem, and he told me that the car would occasionally, for no apparent reason, run very roughly. The dealer was never able to find anything wrong but was on the verge of replacing the transmission under the vehicle's warranty.

The dealer had involved the Cadillac zone manager for the Boston area in this problem, and they both had agreed to the transmission replacement. At this time I had not given any thought to a radio/ECU interference problem.

We continued to discuss his car problem, and I held his IMTS unit at the shop to continue the repair. I let him leave without the IMTS unit and asked him to come back the first of the week.

When he returned to pick up his radio, I asked him how the car was running. He told me that it ran all weekend OK, and that he had done a lot of driving.

During the repair of his radio, I had to refer to the service manual, and I noticed that GE had included some verbiage relative to checking out the radio in the vehicle to make sure that there was no interference with vehicle electronics. I asked him to take me for



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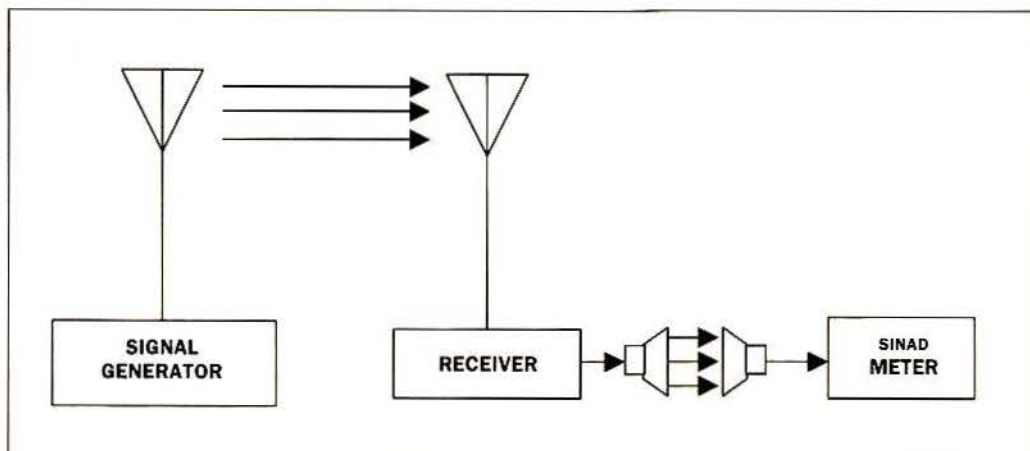


Figure 3. This coupling arrangement requires no direct connection to the intercabling between the radio, antenna or speaker. It is a non-invasive test setup.

a ride around the block while I made a test call on the phone. He agreed, and we set off with him driving and me making the phone call. As soon as the radio transmitter keyed, the car engine started to run rough, and the car kind of jerked along. I immediately terminated the call, and we returned to the shop.

He gave me the name and telephone number of the Cadillac zone manager. I put in a call to him, and we discussed the problem. After several minutes of discussion and

questioning, we learned that the Cadillac engine ECU was housed in a plastic case for the first time that year. For some reason or another, GM had decided to try a plastic housing on the ECUs in their Cadillacs first. The Cadillac zone manager arranged to get a Chevrolet ECU (same unit only in a metal case) and have it installed in this customer's car. **PROBLEM SOLVED!** The customer was happy, and Cadillac was happy. Customer: car and phone working perfectly. Cadillac: no expensive transmission replacement.


A similar incident happened with the Cadillac assigned to the president of Raytheon. He solved the problem by having his engineers wrap the ECU and its wiring in aluminum foil. His radio was a 110W VHF GE Executive II.

My worst nightmare is that the electronics in my vehicle are going to be interfered with by a radio transmitter in a vehicle next to me on the highway.

Thanks to Mr. Tibbetts for sharing this information with us. Problems such as this will get worse unless manufacturers attack this problem at design time. Once the RF noise gets out of the box, it is difficult to put it back. Often, simple solutions, such as the aluminum foil, just aren't sufficient to suppress the noise below the interfering threshold. Manufacturers will only take heed when customers become more discriminate or when fleet managers, when letting bids for vehicles, include specifications that deal with EMC problems where it hurts—in the wallet!

Until next time—stay tuned! ■

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Transcript takes steps to overcome controversy about financial statements

Transcript International released its restated audited financial reports on July 15, 1998, after a four-month-long sequence of events resulting from questions about the wireless communications products manufacturer's financial condition, operations, liquidity and ongoing 1997 audit.

The reports, issued by auditor KPMG Peat Marwick, Omaha, NE, restated the revenues for 1997 and 1996 as \$40.4 million, and as \$10.6 million, respectively. The restated revenues for 1996 and 1997 showed a \$14.5 million discrepancy from the original financial reports, according to Transcript's statement. The net loss for the two-year period increased by about \$9.1 million.

The Lincoln, NE-based company said in a press release that it had reanalyzed its accounting policies regarding revenue recognition, which resulted in the restatement of previously reported financial results for 1996 and 1997. In other words, revenue had been recorded for products shipped but not yet paid for. The new report stated that revenue was recognized for "certain sales where a formal written agreement was not received" and for "sales of certain products which were subsequently returned to the company." The methods of recognizing the percentage of completion of the E.F. Johnson acquisition and the allocation of the purchase price of the acquisition were also cited. Transcript acquired E.F. Johnson, the two-way radio and system manufacturer, on July 31, 1997 for \$34 million.

Craig J. Huffaker, Transcript's chief financial officer, said, "We have initiated tighter monitoring and control procedures to ensure strict compliance with the company's revenue recognition policies moving forward. New accounting policies have been instituted in regards to government contracts and the use of extended payment terms to customers. We are also changing the reporting relationship for our order-processing group. This area will report to finance."

KPMG issued the financial reports a little over two months after being hired by Transcript to replace Coopers & Lybrand as independent auditors. Coopers & Lybrand resigned on April 24 and withdrew its previously issued auditor's reports for the fiscal years 1996 and 1995.

Jim Stark, Transcript's director of investor relations, said, "Now we have a clean opinion from KPMG on our financials. It wasn't contingent or subject to anything, which is very good. Normally if a company has wrongdoings or fraud, per se, an accounting firm will not give you a clean opinion

until the company comes out and makes a statement to that manner—that there was some fraud or something."

The controversy began in March when an anonymous letter, addressed and delivered to Coopers & Lybrand, alleged that two sales totaling \$1.75 million to one government customer in 1997 were not properly recorded. On March 27, Transcript announced a delay in the completion of its 1997 audit because certain accounting principles relating primarily to revenue recognition had not been resolved.

Between March 31 and May 27, 12 class action lawsuits were filed against the company in the U.S. District Court in Nebraska. Some of the complaints also named one or more officers as additional defendants. The complaints allege violations of some federal securities laws and relate primarily to allegations of false and misleading financial state-

'Now we can go out and show them our audits and show them that we are, in fact, a viable company. I think that will go a long way.'

— Huffaker

ments and representations and material omissions by the company.

"The lawsuits are starting to progress a little more quickly. There were 12 federal class-action suits filed, and I'm sure they've all been combined into one class action lawsuit. Our expectation is that we might see some movement on those within the next 60 to 90 days," Stark said. "I think if we can resolve that outstanding issue, it will help on the NASDAQ side of business, as well as with the SEC investigation."

Within three days of Coopers & Lybrand resigning, the NASDAQ National Market delisted the company's stock based on the panel's determination that the company failed to maintain current public filings with audited financial statements.

The Securities and Exchange Commission also issued a formal order of investigation to determine whether violations of federal securities laws had occurred in connection with the company. Transcript stated in its new financial report that it is

"unable to predict whether the SEC is likely to initiate proceedings against the company or its affiliated parties relating to these events."

Stark said, "The SEC is looking at our accounting records. Any piece of information they ask for, they get. That's how we've been cooperating with them."

About a month after its stock was delisted, Jeffrey L. Fuller, Transcript president, and C. Eric Baumann, vice president of North American sales, resigned. John T. Connor, chairman of Transcript, has been acting as CEO in the interim. The board of directors appointed a committee, chaired by Director Thomas Thomsen, to conduct a nationwide search for a permanent CEO. Ed L. Osborn, the senior vice president of marketing and chief operating officer who joined the company in April, moved up to acting president.

The delay in the 1997 audited consolidated financial statements, the resignation of Coopers & Lybrand, the ongoing investigation by the SEC and the resulting uncertainty of class-action lawsuits have "negatively impacted the company's sales and customer confidence during the second quarter of 1998," according to Transcript's statement.

Now that the restated financial results have been released, Transcript is working to come out ahead in the wake of this four-month-long ordeal.

"We certainly have to go through a period of rebuilding customer confidence, now that we have our numbers and audits," Huffaker said. "The main thing is to show them our viability because a lot of questions were raised when all this occurred. There was a lot of uncertainty. And now we can go out and show them our audits and show them that we are, in fact, a viable company. I think that will go a long way."

Stark said that once the company is current with its filings with the SEC, various stock dealers can become market makers, which will probably move the stock into trading on the over-the-counter bulletin board.

Transcript continues to have conversations with NASDAQ regarding the timing of its relisting. Stark said that it could take several months.

"Getting this audit is actually a very positive step for our customers because there had been concern of 'would Transcript be around?'" Stark said. "We put in a press release what our cash balances were and where we stood with everything, so they would know that we are a viable company and we plan to be around."

Geotek directors resign; company seeks Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection

Five directors of Geotek Communications, Montvale, NJ, resigned in June, including Yaron I. Eitan, chief executive officer, and members Haynes G. Griffin, Winston J. Churchill, Walter E. Auch and Purmendu Chatterjee. William Spier will remain on the board as chairman. George Calhoun is departing his position as senior vice president of marketing, but will retain his membership on the board of directors, along with Richard T. Liebhaber and Richard Krants. Also departing is Michael McCoy, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

In papers filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Geotek revealed loans ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000 that it provided to Eitan, McCoy and Calhoun for personal use. As of March 31, 1998, each of these loans had an outstanding balance due.

Resignations are not unusual for a company undergoing changes such as Geotek's, according to Alan Shark, president of the American Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA).

"People on the board who have not been successful bringing in the capital make way for people who can," he said.

Geotek has not yet selected a new chief executive officer. Both a human resources employee and an investor relations employee refused to comment on the issue. Upper-level management at Geotek did not return phone calls.

Shark sees four options for Geotek that the new management can choose from, including finding a partner, being acquired, obtaining unacquired finances or dissolving the company.

"I think they are still trying to weigh their options," Shark said. "I still hope they can turn this around. They have been a very good member [of AMTA] and they offer a neat package of services."

The management transitions are just the beginning of changes at Geotek. The company and its domestic subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions seeking protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on June 29. The filing, along with \$10 million in debtor-in-possession financing, will enable the company to conduct business while negotiating a reorganization plan.

Although the plan is subject to court approval, Geotek expects to use all operating revenues from the continued sale of its communications systems and services, in addi-

tion to the \$10 million debtor-in-possession commitment, to cover operating expenses. S-C Rig Investments III, L.P., an affiliate of the Soros Group, provided the \$10 million commitment. Chatterjee is a director and president of S-C Rig Investments. Geotek employees will continue to receive their normal salary and benefits.

"The filing, coupled with the new financing, affords the company the opportunity to stabilize its financial situation, restructure its balance sheet and reinforce and maximize the underlying value of its business to attract additional investors or strategic partners," Spier said in a press release.

Reflecting the company's financial problems, Geotek's stock prices fell to 12 cents per share and attracted the attention of the NASDAQ Listing Qualifications Panel, which delisted Geotek's securities from NASDAQ on June 30, 1998.

As of March 31, 1998, Geotek Communications had consolidated assets (unaudited) of about \$351 million and consolidated liabilities (unaudited) of about \$424 million.

Lucent claims to cut E9-1-1 connect time

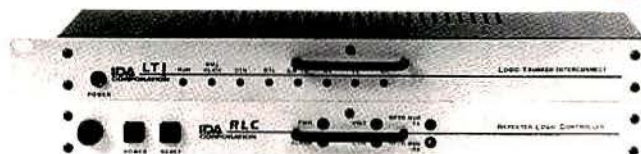
Lucent Technologies, Murray Hill, NJ, has formed a business venture that will help police and fire departments and other agencies respond to E9-1-1 emergency calls faster and more efficiently, even when calls are made from a wireless phone.

The Lucent Public Safety Systems venture has expanded its product offering with an integrated package of Palladium products and services. The Palladium products, designed by Bell Laboratories, include software for telephone network switches, caller location databases, E9-1-1 call answering equipment, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems and records management systems (RMS).

Bob Oliver, president of Lucent Public Safety Systems, said "Our latest offerings use high-speed ISDN signals and promise to cut average connect time for E9-1-1 calls from about eight seconds to about two seconds."

Connect time is the elapsed time between the end of a caller's dialing and the sending of a ringing signal from the E9-1-1 attendant's station. It is important because E9-1-1 callers frequently hang up and try again if they don't hear a ringing signal within a few seconds. Recent FCC orders mandate that E9-1-1 services for mobile telephony users allow the public safety agency to automatically receive information about the caller's location.

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FCC Notes

Phase II 220MHz service licenses to be auctioned

The FCC will hold an auction for 908 licenses to operate in the 220MHz-222MHz band. These licenses encompass the United States, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The auction begins Sept 15. The schedule will be announced by public notice at least one week before the start of the auction. Bidding will be conducted on each business day until it has stopped on all licenses. It will be conducted as simultaneous multiple round bidding, and will be permitted from remote locations, either by computer or telephone.

The pre-auction deadlines are as follows:

Auction seminar, Aug. 6; short form applications (FCC Form 175), Aug. 17, 5:30 p.m.; up-front payments (via wire transfer), Aug. 31, 6 p.m.; orders for remote bidding software, Sept. 1, 5:30 p.m.; mock auction, Sept. 11, (TBA).

Cellular database becomes part of universal licensing system

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is developing a universal licensing system to unify 11 separate licensing databases and to provide greater efficiency in the licensing process. The licensing system will provide the public with electronic filing as well as online querying and mapping capabilities.

Previously, the bureau ensured the integrity of the cellular database by mailing each licensee a copy of its authorization on an annual basis, which provided an opportunity for corrections. Now, the bureau has created an opportunity to make these corrections via the Internet, allowing the database to be updated much more frequently.

Instructions clarified for Part 22 paging licensees filing renewals

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau designated use of the Universal Licensing System for all processing of radiotelephone service (Part 22 applications). ULS provides significant benefits for Part 22 paging licensees, including the fast and easy filing of electronic renewal applications on FCC Form 601, designed specifically for electronic filing in ULS, and the automated processing of such applications.

MRT's publishing company changes name

On July 1, the name of the company that owns *Mobile Radio Technology* was changed from Intertec Publishing to PRIMEDIA Intertec. PRIMEDIA Intertec, Overland Park, KS, is the largest operating division of New York-based PRIMEDIA, a public company. It contributed nearly 20% of PRIMEDIA's 1997 sales of \$1.24 billion. Intertec Publishing's president, Raymond E. Maloney, has been promoted to president of PRIMEDIA Intertec. He said the name change is part of a comprehensive branding strategy begun in October 1997 by PRIMEDIA.

"Our company will only continue to pros-

per and grow through its partnership with PRIMEDIA's powerful media brands," Maloney explained.

Within PRIMEDIA Intertec, the company's magazine groups have been renamed as five market-focused magazine divisions. Cameron Bishop, previously the senior vice president of Group II, has been promoted to president of the Communications & Entertainment Division. Along with *MRT*, the division includes magazines that serve the telecommunications, wireless communications, entertainment and apparel industries.

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Hutton uses 'electronic commerce' to improve customer service

With customer service in mind, Hutton Communications, Carrollton, TX, is turning to electronic commerce applications including extensive email communication with customers and an interactive CD-ROM catalog. The CD-ROM catalog, which Hutton plans to migrate to its Web page on the Internet, allows customers to view inventory



Weber

and product specifications, and to compare similar products to make a final decision. The catalog, and eventually the Web site, can accept orders at any time of the day. This is an advantage for customers, according to Randy Weber, electronic commerce manager for Hutton. "We're trying to get a better handle on what our customers want," he said. "It has literally changed the way we do business."

Weber also stressed the importance of email in customer service. Instead of using long-distance phone calls for technical questions, Hutton has set up email addresses for

each of its six U.S. branches. Customers can use the email to ask questions, and to place and track orders. This process is much more efficient than standard phone calls, and Hutton has a policy of answering all electronic inquiries within one business day, said Weber. Weber explained that using email saves customers time and frustration caused by placing phone calls during business hours and enduring multiple transfers while the person answering the phone searches for someone who can answer the question. The process also saves money for the company by reducing long-distance bills and shortening hours that the phone lines must be staffed. "The idea is that we can provide (customers) with the information they need when they need it," Weber said.

In addition to these projects, Hutton has updated its Web site for faster service with more available information, and has begun to look at ways to incorporate its own Web site with that of its subsidiary, Hutton Communications Canada. Hutton has also implemented an in-house Intranet to improve communication among employees.

Trimble, Midwest Traffic join to offer GPS-AVL

Trimble Navigation, Cincinnati, and Midwest Traffic Products, Romeoville, IL, have signed an agreement to combine resources for GPS-based automatic vehicle location and traffic signal pre-emption. Emergency response and transit vehicles equipped with Trimble's AVL systems will be able to request green signals at intersections based on GPS information. Traffic signal pre-emption could save lives and property by allowing faster and safer response for emergency vehicles. It can also reduce overall traffic congestion for public transit vehicles by cutting travel times and improving adherence to schedules.

Under the agreement, MTP will resell Trimble's GPS-based traffic signal pre-emption system with AVL and central dispatch capabilities. In turn, Trimble will have the ability to integrate MTP's signal pre-emption capabilities. The integrated system uses the same GPS receiver for both fleet management and traffic signal pre-emption.

The first contract for the integration of the traffic signal pre-emption with AVL was placed by Palm Beach County, FL, for 95 intersections and 103 vehicles in April 1998.

Trimble's GPS-AVL subsystem is a comprehensive system of fully integrated products, including a PSC-200 intelligent data controller with a built-in GPS receiver, an Echotl message data terminal and base station software packages for AVL management and communications control.

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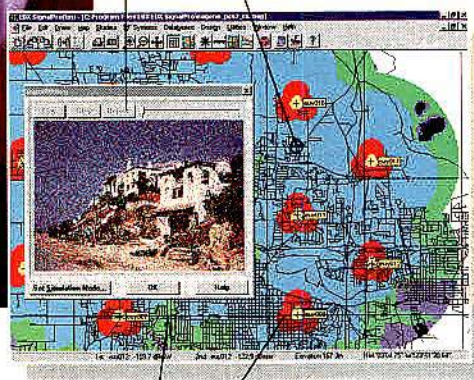
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Tools for Wireless Design

ANSI approves Project 25 common air interface

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has approved the Telecommunications Industry Association's (TIA) standard, the Project 25 Common Air Interface.

"The document begins to satisfy two of our primary original objectives in Project 25," said Art McDole, Project 25 co-chairman. "This new standard will help ensure public safety agencies are able to buy Project 25 communications products in an open and competitive marketplace," he said.

Utilities report need for more spectrum

Following a comprehensive, one-year study, UTC's USAT (Utilities Spectrum Assessment Taskforce) released a report at the UTC Annual Conference and Exhibition on June 30, confirming the need for the new spectrum to meet utilities' needs in the first decade of the 21st century.

Findings were based on original survey data, projections from historical data and the methodology from the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) process, as applied to utilities and pipelines. The task force found the following:

□ The total new spectrum required by the year 2000 will be an additional 1MHz, with 1.9MHz more by 2005 and 6.3MHz more by 2010.

□ There will be an increase in the use of wireless applications, and utilities will need additional spectrum to accommodate these applications.

□ There is substantial interest within the utility community to implement wireless video and wideband data. As technology improves and the cost of terminals decreases, it will become more common for the utility industry to deploy these technologies.

The USAT report was prepared by representatives of UTC member companies, including utilities and radio manufacturers and focuses for the first time on identifying future applications and quantifying the wireless bandwidth needed to provide them. The next step will be to find ways to access the additional spectrum, such as reallocation of additional spectrum and development of new technologies that will permit improved use of current and additional frequencies.

The UTC report noted that new applications of wideband data and video will become important for efficient operation of utilities in the next century. Utilities will have increased requirement for traditional wireless applications of voice and data as electric utilities restructure. Vertically integrated utility companies could divest into operational components, such as generation, transmission, distribution and retail marketing.

Indiana State Police launches communications project

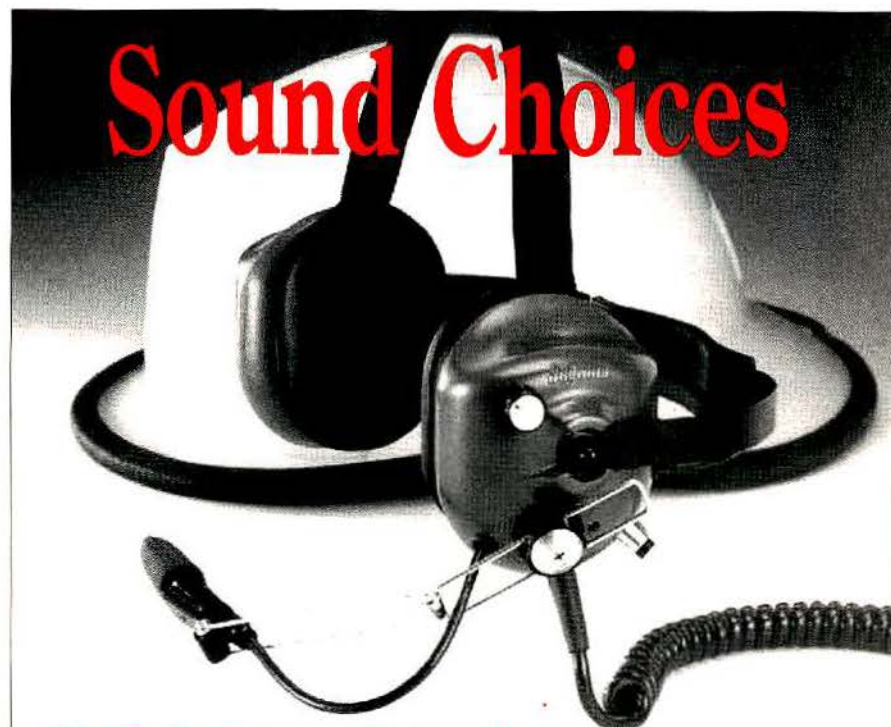
Indiana has begun a long-awaited project to replace its present outdated public safety voice radio communications network announced Indiana State Police Superintendent Melvin Carraway. The new integrated system, based on state-of-the-art 800MHz digital technology, will replace numerous systems that have deteriorated since they were first installed, some more than 25 years ago.

Superintendent Carraway said that the new system has received the strong support of Indiana's integrated law enforcement council

(ILEC). It will not only provide seamless voice communications, but also will enable more effective field operations by supporting mobile data communications.

Carraway said, "Public safety agencies throughout Indiana will be able to communicate not only clearer, faster and more reliably, but interagency communications for mutual aid among local departments and the state will be greatly improved."

The state retained The Warner Group, Woodland Hills, CA, to develop a comprehensive strategic plan and system design.



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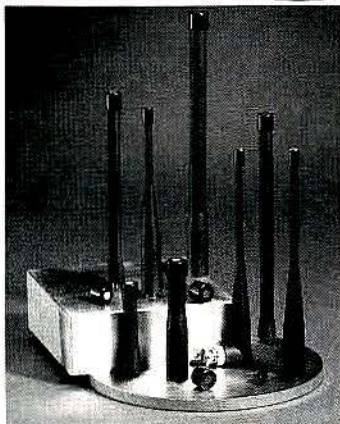
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ICOM Funmobile tours United States, Canada

ICOM America, Bellevue, WA, is sending its Funmobile, a 29-foot van loaded with communications equipment, around the United States and Canada. ICOM employees are taking turns driving the van to various retail stores and industry trade shows. The van features pilot, boating, public safety, ham and SWC communication equipment.

The company hopes the tour will build awareness of the types of equipment that ICOM produces. ICOM also uses the

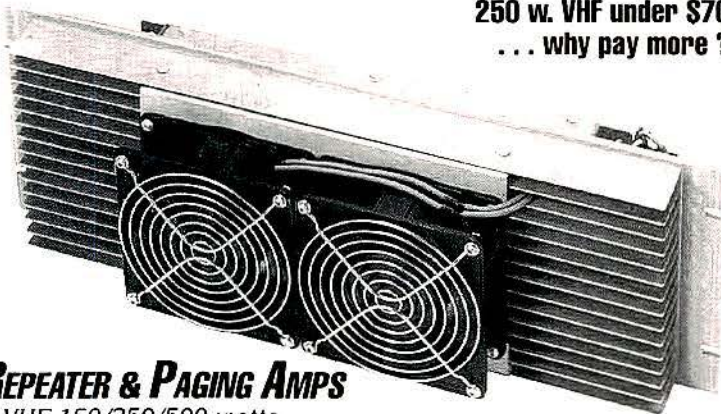
Funmobile for hands-on training of end-users and retail sales staff.

The tour began in April in the northwest United States and will continue through the fall. ICOM has generated an enthusiastic response from its effort. Thousands of people have visited the Funmobile at its various locations, and the company has received many positive comments from both users and retailers.

A Funmobile itinerary can be viewed via the Internet at www.icomamerica.com.

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Cerulean expands mobile info application suite

Cerulean Technology, Marlborough, MA, has announced a new component of its Packetcluster mobile information application suite that enables police officers in the field to collect data, enter information and upload and update reports, from their patrol cars. Packetwriter field reporting streamlines the documenting, writing and storing of reports while extending the computing desktop from headquarters to the patrol car.

Together, Packetwriter and Packetcluster Patrol provide wireless connectivity across multiple radio infrastructures, integration with back office records systems and interoperability with other desktop applications.

Blue Ridge Jail members join area radio system

Three of the five members of the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority (BRRJA) will be joining the Central Virginia Regional Radio System in a deal allowing the BRRJA to just purchase radios instead of a completely new communications architecture.

Nearly two years ago, the cities of Lynchburg, VA, and Bedford, VA, and the counties of Bedford and Amherst purchased an \$11.7 million system from Ericsson to support radio communications for their public safety agencies that would allow seamless interoperability between the municipalities. The BRRJA will operate on this infrastructure.

Participating users of the BRRJA are Lynchburg, Bedford and Moneta. These users will use the system to cover on-site communications and communications made during the transportation of prisoners.

The Central Virginia Regional Radio System is scheduled to come on-line later this year, and the BRRJA will begin using its radios in simplex mode this summer.

IBM offers real-time access to databases

From the safety of the patrol car, law enforcement officers can now have real-time access to information from local, state and federal databases, including criminal, vehicle and driver information with IBM's Enetwork Law Enforcement Express.

The system extends the reach of host- and Web-based applications to the mobile patrol force by allowing law enforcement agencies to use Internet and intranet information in real-time. Based on client/server architecture, it features a graphic interface that is activated by the touch of a pen, keyboard or mouse, and runs on a variety of mobile hardware platforms, from basic laptop computers to units specifically designed for public safety.

CommServe to market Gabriel products

Gabriel Electronics, Scarborough, ME, and CommServe Marketing, Canada, have entered into an agreement for CommServe Marketing to market Gabriel products throughout Canada.



CommServe will be marketing Gabriel's line of terrestrial microwave point-to-point antennas, point-to-multipoint antennas, cellular base station antennas, coaxial cable, elliptical waveguide, rigid waveguide components and related accessories. Gabriel also carries a line of pressurization equipment for communications systems.

American TriTech changes name, releasing software

American TriTech, San Diego, changed its name to TriTech Software Systems in June.

"We are an international company, and wanted our name to have broad, international appeal," said Christopher D. Maloney, president of TriTech.

Maloney said the company chose to announce the change at this time because it is releasing VisiCAD for Law Enforcement later this year. This program will allow users to dispatch all three agencies (fire, police and EMS), using a single program.



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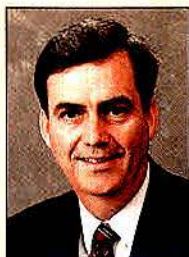
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Circle (54) on Fast Fact Card

News Notes

World Wireless Communications, Salt Lake City, has opened a SCADA and Telemetry division in Kansas City, MO. The division develops SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) and telemetry systems for oil and gas production, vending machines and weather data collection. "The SCADA and telemetry systems being developed by our new division will augment and service our current telemetry contracts as well as expand World Wireless' presence in the Midwest," said **David Singer**, president of World Wireless. The division will also develop products used to monitor vending machines, pipelines, water tanks and personal protection systems, said **Don Wallace**, vice president of the SCADA and Telemetry Division.

BellSouth, Atlanta, has assumed 100% operational control of **RAM Mobile Data USA** and has renamed the business



Lenahan

"BellSouth Wireless Data." "We are excited about this opportunity to have the power of the BellSouth brand behind our efforts to increase the presence of our company in the rapidly expanding marketplace," said

William F. Lenahan,

president of the new BellSouth Wireless Data.

Midland USA, Kansas City, MO, and **Uniden Private Radio Communications**, Fort Worth, TX, have agreed to market Midland's LMR products with Uniden's advanced ESAS system. "ESAS has proven itself to be a reliable, affordable and beneficial enhancement to the standard LTR protocol, and this is being recognized by the growing list of manufacturers that are offering ESAS products," said **Sal Farina**, Uniden Private Radio Communications' vice president of domestic sales.

Dataradio, Atlanta, will integrate its Collision Avoidance Radio Multiple Access (CARMA) mobile data technology with a 48MHz, low-band voice radio infrastructure from **Cleco**, Pineville, LA, to provide Cleco with a mobile computing system that uses its existing private radio network. "The Dataradio solution made it possible for us to utilize our existing radio network," said **Sonny Carter**, Cleco's manager of distribution operations. "We were in pretty big trouble. Dataradio saved this project."

CPI Communications has moved to a new location. The new address is: 941 Hensley Lane, Wylie, TX, 75098. The new phone number is 800-869-9128, and the fax is 888-437-5360.

The **Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office**, Gretna, LA, has tested its digital 800MHz voice and data two-way radio systems at

the **Motorola Customer Center for Systems Integration** in Schaumburg, IL. "The new data system will provide officers in the field direct access to computerized law enforcement databases that will give them the information they need in a wide variety of situations," said **Harry Lee**, sheriff of Jefferson Parish.

Glenayre,

Charlotte, NC, and **PageNet**, Plano, TX, signed a multiyear volume purchase agreement for a nationwide, two-way narrowband PCS paging system. Under the agreement, Glenayre will install infrastructure and software to migrate PageNet's one-way networks to high capacity two-way voice and data networks. The companies also signed a second volume purchase agreement for the supply of Glenayre's word-messaging acknowledgment pager, the AccessMate. "We are very pleased to offer PageNet an end-to-end system solution that provides them with cost and performance advantages," said **Gary Smith**, president of Glenayre.

CMC Distributing, Van Nuys, CA, changed its corporate name to **Electro-Comm West** to better reflect the company's focus on distributing RF telecommunications products and its separation from **Communications Marketing Company**, a manufacturer's representative company. All the employees, phone numbers and addresses associated with the former company remain the same. Along with the name change, the company also plans to expand its product offering.

Motorola has appointed **Leavitt Communications**, Skokie, IL, an authorized distributor of the new Motorola 900MHz Creatalink paging control module. "Creatalink is the first of a new generation of one- and two-way paging products with virtually unlimited potential," said **Philip Leavitt**, president of Leavitt Communications.

The **Antenna Specialists** and **Decibel Products** divisions of **Allen Telecom**, Cleveland, OH, named **Stinson Associates**, Havertown, PA, as its 1997 Representative of the Year.

The city of Richmond, CA, selected **Ericsson** to provide digital access trunked radio systems for its agencies in an \$8.3 million contract. Richmond will receive a five-channel, four-site GPS simulcast system with six C3 Maestro consoles for Windows NT for its police, fire and public works departments, as well as its housing authority.

The **National Institute of Standards and Technology** (NIST) has issued a FIPS 140-



1 Validation Certificate to **Transcrypt International**, Lincoln, NE, for its SC20-DES two-way encryption module. The FIPS 140-1 certification recognizes that the device has met the stringent security requirements of cryptographic modules that protect sensitive but unclassified information within a computer or communication system. As an aftermarket encryption module for two-way radios, the SC20-DES secures communication by utilizing DES algorithm to encrypt digitized voice audio. "Engineering a product which meets the stringent standards of NIST and provides a digital security solution for radio users around the world is a testament to our research and development process," **Joel Young**, Transcrypt's vice president of engineering, said.

Calling auctions "an inappropriate mechanism" for licensing private internal systems, the **Industrial Telecommunications Association**, Arlington, VA, has asked the FCC to implement a system of efficiency-based lease fees to license the spectrum allocations requested in the Land Mobile Communications Council's (LMCC) April 22 Petition for Rulemaking. ITA urged the FCC to take an active role in pursuing the lease-fee authority from Congress.

The TSM-2000 Card Access System, developed by **Hark Systems**, Summerville, SC, will be used on the 83rd floor of the Empire State Building to control access and to monitor the status of environmental readings in the communications suites, such as temperature and moisture conditions.

Flagship Marketing will represent **PanaVise Products**, Reno, NV, in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. "We are very pleased to add Flagship to our sales team," said **Gary Richter**, PanaVise president.

The **American Mobile Telecommunications Association** (AMTA) applauds the release of an FCC Public Notice announcing the new start date for the auction of Phase II 220MHz licenses. AMTA especially noted the FCC Wireless Telecommunication Bureau's decision to reduce some upfront payments and minimum opening bids for the auction, now scheduled to start Sept. 15, 1998. "As we've stressed all along, the small amount of spectrum in each license and lower infrastructure costs for 220MHz make this industry a real opportunity for small business participation, if the auction costs themselves are reasonable," said **Alan Shark**, president of AMTA.



Shark

Site security



Intrusion alarm software uses FM to reduce monitoring airtime

Pacific Circuit Design has redesigned the Watchdog for adaption to the expanding wireless intrusion alarm market. The Watchdog has software features that allow monitoring of numerous stations on existing FM radio systems, with little effect on normal communications voice traffic. This adaptation allows trunking system owners to increase their monthly revenues by offering the alarm services without sacrificing large amounts of airtime for alarm monitoring. The PC software provides a time-and-date stamp on all system activities.

Circle (351) on Fast Fact Card

System features visual verification

Motorola's RIX is designed for public safety, utility and security professionals who need to know what is happening at remote sites. Visual verification of abnormal remote-site conditions, traditionally detected by motion, temperature and other sensors, is now available with the RIX radio image transmission system. Data speeds as high as 19.2kbps allow typical small images to be collected every three seconds. Longer acquisition times may be required by the communication system design, communication path length and image compressibility. RIX typically operates on two-way radio channels and offers enhanced applications for alarm verification, industrial site monitoring, fire monitoring and traffic control.

Circle (352) on Fast Fact Card

Monitor automatically phones, pages 16 numbers continuously

Antx has developed the ADAS Dialog alarm monitoring and notification system that automatically phones or pages as many as 16 numbers from a single or series of alarm conditions. The system continues to call, giving user-recorded messages, until all alarms are acknowledged. This ensures that appropriate personnel are notified of critical conditions. Key features include notification via phone, pager, radio or modem; callback alarm acknowledgment; remote programming; remote call-in for status; NEMA 4X enclosure; as many as 40 alarm points monitored continuously; event logging; 24-hour battery backup; surge and power loss protection; local programming via keypad and local visual display of system and alarm status.

Circle (353) on Fast Fact Card

Monitor features card access

Hark Tower Systems manufactures tower site monitoring and card access equipment. The Hark TSM2000 can be applied to virtually any type of site and provides the owner/manager with an alarm reporting platform that can control entry to buildings, monitor existing light control equipment, and provide one point for reporting site alarms and conditions. Detailed reports of all events are available including the entries, date, time and identity of who entered, which can be stored and printed.

Circle (354) on Fast Fact Card



Monitor reports 240 conditions

The B1280 FLX from Barnett Engineering can monitor and report as many as 240 alarm conditions, including temperatures, loss of events, battery voltage and current, site intrusion, totalizers, VSWR and RF power. Alarms can be reported and acknowledged over telco lines, cellular or satellite telephones, or conventional and trunked mobile radio systems, RS-232 ports, tone and alphanumeric pagers. There are output relays that allow for the remote operations of fans, sirens, switches and other devices until maintenance personnel arrive to perform adjustments and repairs. Typical applications include monitoring of vital conditions at joint-use VHF, UHF repeater sites, cellular, paging and PCS sites.

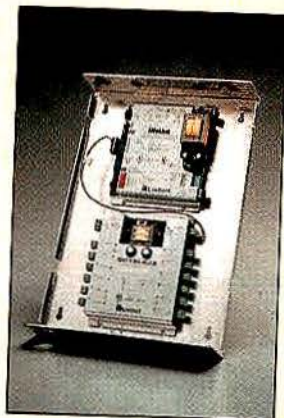
Circle (356) on Fast Fact Card

System allows two-way communication between sites

Liebert has developed Sitelink, a building management system communications interface. Sitelink's microprocessor-based control module provides two-way communication between the existing building management system and environmental, power and uninterruptible power supply products. Sitelink has a 32-bit architecture that relays critical operating information between equipment and Modbus or Sitescan central monitoring systems.

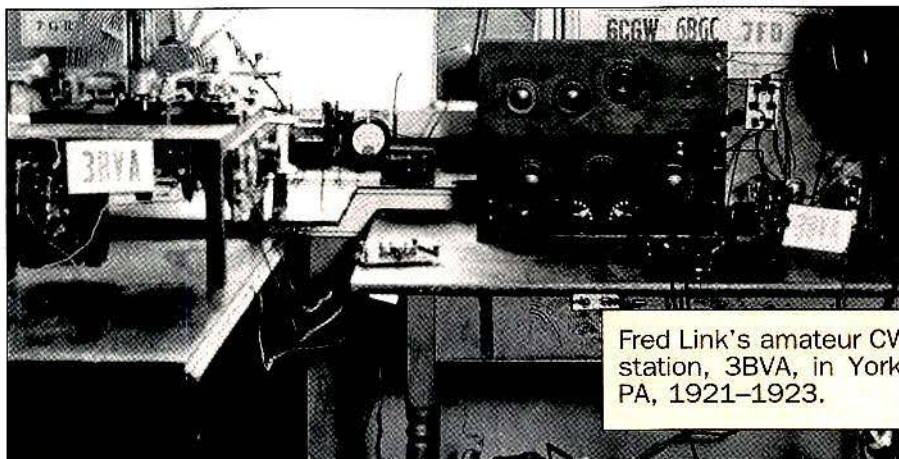
A single unit can control as many as 12 information gathering modules for cost-saving monitoring, reset of alarms and critical operating parameters.

Circle (355) on Fast Fact Card



know—and he knew almost everyone. In recent years, as his eyesight weakened, he wanted help at the many trade shows he attended. I accompanied him so often that people started calling me his “bodyguard.” I told him he was a “people magnet,” because he attracted so much attention as we walked the exhibit aisles. “I prefer ‘goodwill ambassador,’ Don, if you don’t mind,” he said.

Fred and his wife, Mildred, raised two daughters, Daryl, who died several years ago, and Joanne. They also raised American Saddlebred horses. “I can’t say that horsebreeding made any money,” Fred said. “But



Fred Link's amateur CW station, 3BVA, in York, PA, 1921-1923.

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it brought me in contact with all the right people.” The horses usually were ridden in competition by the Links’ daughters. Their home, Robin Hill Farm, in Pittstown, NJ, contains countless awards and photographs from horse shows.

Fred led the Radio Club of America as president for 23 years, which also figured in the success of his consulting business.

Now you know something about Fred’s life, but you shoulda heard his stories. Like the “Great Texas Antenna Shoot,” wherein Fred’s customer and benefactor, oilman Jim West, organized a shooting party to “remove” a base station antenna that was mounted too high. And the “Radio Equipped Horse-drawn Delivery Cart” that, thanks to a New York City ordinance, always went ahead of motorized trucks at the docks to pick up supplies for Link Radio. And the “Electric Windows That Sold the Radios,” wherein foreign buyers, fascinated by electric windows on a Cadillac given to Fred by Jim West, agreed to a purchase while spending most of their time working the windows instead of watching the demonstration of radio equipment in the car.

And the “Lyndon Johnson Waiver,” wherein the then-Senate majority leader called the FCC and obtained a waiver for Fred to install 3,000-watt VHF lowband base stations to communicate by ship with mobiles and airplanes across the United States. And Fred’s travel to Havana and Mexico City to sell police radios. And many more.

Fred used to tell me, “Don, don’t get old; you won’t like it.”

I would say, “First of all, what’s the alternative? Second, if you’re any example, what’s wrong with it?”

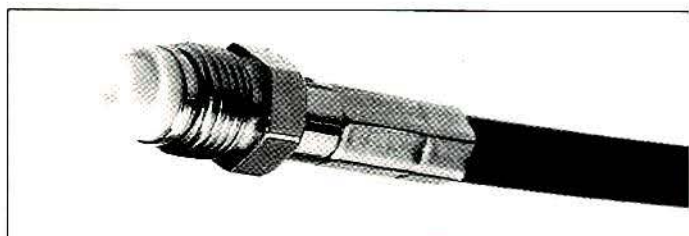
“I guess you’re right,” he would concede. “I’ve been lucky.”

Fred was lucky, although he also was prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that good fortune brought him, and he recognized those opportunities, and that made the difference. And I know I was lucky to know him.

God bless you, Fred. ■

Mobile antenna mounts now feature FME universal connectors

Maxrad's mobile antenna mounts are available with FME universal connectors. The diameter of an FME connector is slightly greater than the cable it is attached to, so faster antenna installations result. The feature allows an installer to pull the antenna mount's cable and factory-installed connector through a vehicle. When the cable reaches the radio or phone, the installer attaches the appropriate threaded adapter, which connects with the radio's antenna port, to the threaded FME universal connector. The FME universal connector is available with all Maxrad mobile antenna mounts including 3/4" hole, magnetic, trunk groove and trunk lid mounts.

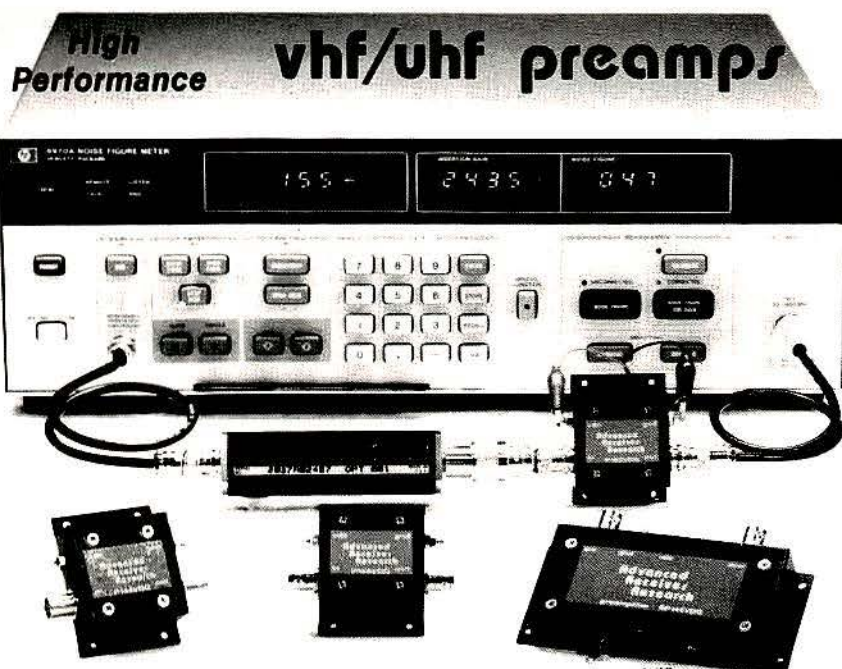


Circle (401) on Fast Fact Card

Impedance analyzer features graphical and digital displays

AEA's CIA-HF hand-held graphic complex impedance analyzer is for tuning, testing and designing antennas or any tuned circuits in the 400kHz to 54MHz frequency range. The CIA-HF offers displays of SWR, vector or absolute impedance, resistance, reactance and voltage. It can determine the Q factor or bandwidth between any selectable SWR points, and the correct conjugate match inductor or capacitor value to tune an antenna properly.

Circle (402) on Fast Fact Card



Receive only

P30VD, P35VD, P40VD, P45VD	30-35, 35-40, 40-45, 45-50
P30VDG, P35VDG, P40VDG, P45VDG	30-35, 35-40, 40-45, 45-50
P150VD, P160VD, P170VD	150-160, 160-170, 170-180
P150VDA, P160VDA, P170VDA	150-160, 160-170, 170-180
P150VDG, P160VDG, P170VDG	150-160, 160-170, 170-180
P450VD, P460VD	450-460, 460-470
P450VDA, P460VDA	450-460, 460-470
P450VDG, P460VDG	450-460, 460-470
P800VDG, P830VDG, P860VDG	800-830, 830-860, 860-890

Inline (rf switched)

SP30VD, SP35VD, SP40VD, SP45VD	30-35, 35-40, 40-45, 45-50
SP30VDG, SP35VDG, SP40VDG, SP45VDG	30-35, 35-40, 40-45, 45-50
SP150VD, SP160VD, SP170VD	150-160, 160-170, 170-180
SP150VDA, SP160VDA, SP170VDA	150-160, 160-170, 170-180
SP150VDG, SP160VDG, SP170VDG	150-160, 160-170, 170-180
SP450VD, SP460VD	450-460, 460-470
SP450VDA, SP460VDA	450-460, 460-470
SP450VDG, SP460VDG	450-460, 460-470

Freq. Ranges (MHz)

	N.F. (dB)	Gain Comp. (dB)	Device Type	Price
<1.3	15	0	DGFET	\$ 44.95
<0.5	26	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
<1.5	15	0	DGFET	\$ 44.95
<1.1	15	0	DGFET	\$ 56.95
<0.5	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
<1.8	15	-20	Bipolar	\$ 49.95
<1.2	16	-20	Bipolar	\$ 74.95
<0.5	16	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
<0.6	19	+12	GaAsFET	\$119.95
<1.4	15	0	DGFET	\$ 74.95
<0.55	26	+12	GaAsFET	\$139.95
<1.6	15	0	DGFET	\$ 74.95
<1.2	15	0	DGFET	\$ 86.95
<0.55	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$139.95
<1.9	15	-20	Bipolar	\$ 79.95
<1.3	16	-20	Bipolar	\$104.95
<0.55	16	+12	GaAsFET	\$139.95

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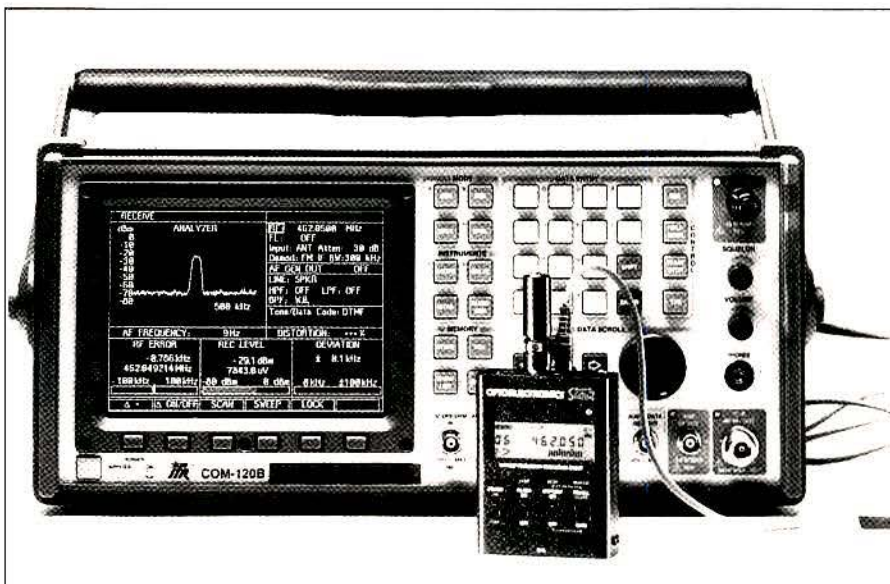
Of all the new products and services in the January 1998 issue, the one reprinted here generated the most reader requests for additional information. If you missed it the first time, here is your opportunity to acquire more information about it. Just circle the corresponding Fast Fact Card number on the card found in the back of this issue, and mail the card to us.

Vehicular repeater extends hand-held range

Pyramid Communications' model SVR-214 provides extended range for a UHF or VHF hand-held by crossband repeat with an existing mobile. The SVR-214 is Motorola PAC/RT, PC-programmable and capable of 14-channel operation, allowing the use of several portable frequencies without reprogramming the vehicular repeater. The repeater features priority sampling, "first man out," multivehicle operation, local mic repeat and adjustable power as great as 2W.

Circle (500) on Fast Fact Card





Frequency recorder features 400 memories

The Super Scout from **Optoelectronics** is a hand-held frequency recorder that locks onto a signal from 10MHz–1.4GHz in less than one second. With its built-in serial interface, the recorder interfaces to the IFR COM-120B or IFR 1200 with a serial port, using the supplied cable. Once the recorder captures a frequency, it automatically tunes the IFR service monitor to that frequency. The COM-120B can be tuned in receive mode as well as spectrum analyzer mode. Reaction tuning the service monitor can save time and money. With virtually no set-up time involved, the two-way communications professional will be able to test many more radios in a day, a week or all year. In addition to its reaction tune capabilities for the IFR, the recorder also has 400 memories.

Circle (403) on Fast Fact Card

Desktop controller offers local extended control

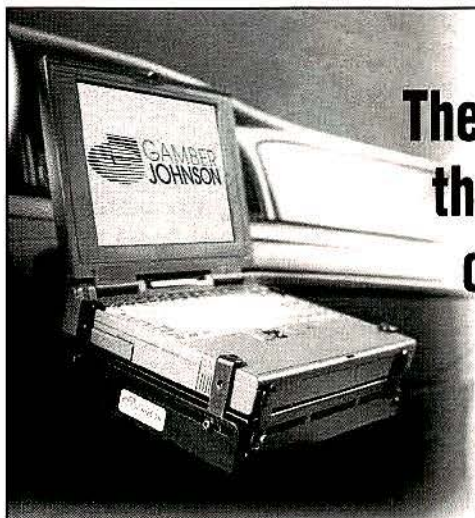
The ILD2000 local deskset from the **Instrument Associates Division** of **Gai-Tronics** gives users local extended control. Features that were traditionally optional now come standard with the deskset. Selectable monitor, intercom, internal intercom, full-duplex capability, selectable parallel transmit audio mute, selectable off-hook monitor, and keypad programmable controls and adjustments increase deskset users' dispatch power and productivity. Adjustable input sensitivity, adjustable transmit output level and selectable output logic provide audio quality and flexible radio-system set-up.

Circle (404) on Fast Fact Card

Ear inserts allow use of telephone simultaneously

Otto Communications' flexible, open ear inserts conform to the shape of the ear, permitting the use of a telephone or headset while wearing the ear insert. The headsets allow the user to hear ambient noise with their open-frame design, while fitting entirely inside the ear. They are compatible with Otto acoustic tube assemblies. They are also molded from ultra-flexible, hypo-allergenic plastic, and are available in three sizes, with right- and left-ear versions.

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Circle (61) on Fast Fact Card

Dispatch system available for rental with new program

TriTech Software Systems now offers its VisiCAD dispatching system through a new rental program. The program, VisiCAD on Demand, supports enhanced operational flexibility, scalability and versatile asset management for customers. The enhanced rental program is based on an existing software rental program TriTech has offered for more than two years. The company expanded the new program to include all components of a VisiCAD system, such as software, hardware, support, maintenance, user training and installation. With this program, TriTech will provide all hardware, software and service components of its Windows NT-based dispatch system under a comprehensive monthly rental plan. The program will provide for automatic software upgrades and all support, installation and training services. In addition, all computer hardware will be upgraded to state-of-the-art computer technology as often as every 24 months.

Circle (406) on Fast Fact Card

Filter solves problem of transmission interference

Ultra-Q from AeroComm is a cost-effective solution to an existing problem created by paging and cellular transmission interference on Multiple Address Systems (MAS). These and other disruptive signals render many systems inoperable. The implementation of Ultra-Q permits normal operation of the MAS by eliminating extraneous, troublesome transmissions. Within the frequency ranges of 928MHz to 953MHz, the unit is frequency-agile with channel spacing of 6.25KHz. Ultra-Q is only one of an array of standard filters designed and manufactured by AeroComm. Using the same techniques, AeroComm filters are available in the VHF/UHF bands.

Circle (407) on Fast Fact Card

Public service portable offers 160 channels

Kenwood Communications' TK-290/TK-390 VHF/UHF portables feature 160 channels with dynamic grouping and wideband coverage. The TK-290/390 also performs in multiple-bandwidth mode, and has a dual-priority scan feature designed so agencies can monitor calls on two primary channels. The rugged die-

cast chassis radio meets mil-spec 810 C, D & E standards, including the driven-rain standard, and is built with a weather-sealed universal connector for audio accessories. The radio is for public service. It features encryption control, digital ANI and emergency con-

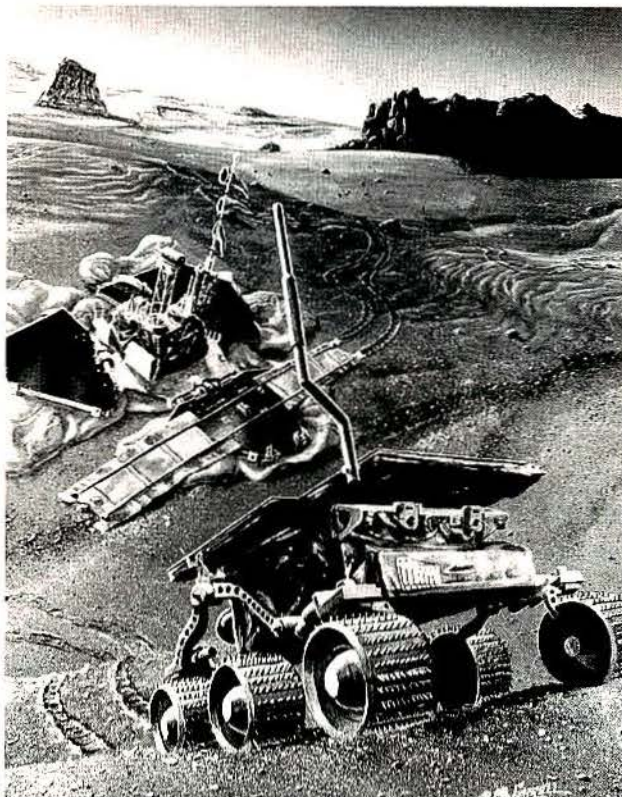
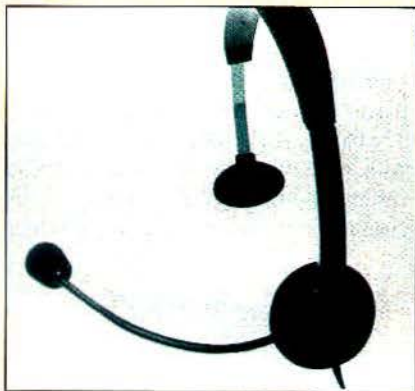
trol options, and a recessed orange emergency key and call. Five programmable function (PF) keys enable customization for user preferences and a programmable speaker mic. For forestry, wildlife management and cooperative fire departments, an operator selectable tone/code (OST) provides a programmable bank of 16 user-selectable tones. DTMF keypad models offer manual DTMF for system access, remote control functionality and dialing features for telephone interconnect and/or PBX access.

Circle (408) on Fast Fact Card

Lightweight headset fits BK radios

TwitCo Distributing's ParMarLow lightweight headset (HD-PWH2100) series is designed for BK radios. The design features an enclosed headband adjustment with moveable rubber cover. This provides easy adjustment with no metal ends to catch on clothing or hair. The adjustable boom microphone and soft ear pad offer additional comfort features. The HD-PWH2100 headset is available for Motorola, Ericsson, Uniden and Kenwood radios.

Circle (409) on Fast Fact Card



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Circle (63) on Fast Fact Card

Conditioner charges batteries quickly

The Pulse Analyzer Conditioner from **AdvanceTec Industries** is multifunctional and easy to operate. The battery is placed in the conditioner; no programming or buttons are needed. The battery is discharged, then charged rapidly and conditioned with negative pulse technology. The unit also analyzes the battery and displays its capacity on the digital display. The conditioner is available as a single or four-station analyzer.



Circle (410) on Fast Fact Card

Paging system works for indoor/outdoor use

Eagle Wireless International's Townpage is a compact paging system enclosed in a weatherproof housing. This system is suited for coverage infill, community paging and specialized or temporary paging systems for emergency relief systems or special events. The system includes weatherproof ruggedness, paging input capability and an economical price. The Townpage can receive paging data from TNPP inputs, TAP inputs, DID lines, end-to-end connections and wireline or modem connections. It transmits POCSAG data at 512, 1,200, or 2,400bps to numeric, tone-only or alphanumeric receivers. Flex is planned for the future. Windows 95 software is provided for control and configuration of the system. It is available in all frequencies for VHF to 900 MHz at output powers of 25W, 40W or 100W and measures 16" x 25" x 10".

Circle (411) on Fast Fact Card

Server aids public safety agencies

Public safety agencies can use a multiprotocol server. The multiprotocol feature of the Packetcluster Patrol and Packetcluster Rescue wireless mobile information systems lets users on different radio networks communicate via one server. Departments with limited access to new and existing radio channels can use existing cellular networks to help maximize mobile information systems' capabilities without clogging their wireless networks. The multiprotocol server provides a simple migration path from a private radio system to a public wireless network. A department can enable a few patrol cars with cellular digital packet data (CDPD) prior to the entire department converting to the technology. Also, public safety vehicles regularly traveling beyond the conventional radio's range can be equipped with a mobile computer unit configured for CDPD transmission.

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Trapeze system supports 24" or 36" bridges

Valmont/Microflect's bridge trapeze system supports waveguide and/or coax runs under 24- or 36-inch bridges between the tower and radio buildings. This flexible system allows the customer to install either snap-in, cushion or "butterfly" style hangers. The system is made from hot dip galvanized steel and top quality stainless steel hardware.

Circle (413) on Fast Fact Card

CDMA/AMPS spectrum management system helps to expand network service

Metawave Communication's SpotLight 2000 is a dual-mode spectrum management system for CDMA, AMPS and NAMPS networks. The system uses smart antenna technology to improve the capacity of both CDMA and analog networks, providing operators with a way to expand network service before, during and after digital migration. The system provides capacity increases of more than 100% in analog networks, along with improved in-building service, enhanced call quality and expanded cellular coverage. With the integration of CDMA compatibility, the system extends the capacity and performance benefits of smart antennas to CDMA networks.

Circle (414) on Fast Fact Card

ESAS' power amplifier features five channels

Uniden PRC's ESAS come with companion five-channel repeaters and amplifiers. The power amplifier is designed for five-channel operation from a single power supply and is microprocessor-controlled, allowing for a wide input power range and power output. It also features a bar LED power indicator and alarms for low input, high input, over-temp and high VSWR conditions.

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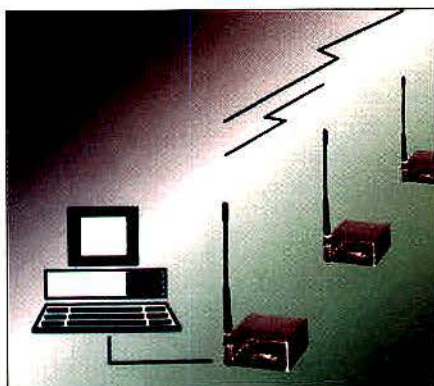
Two-way portable radios feature 99 channels



Midland USA's Syn-Tech II FM two-way portables are wideband, 99-channel portable radios. Models 70-174B and 70-247B are available in 5W VHF (146-174 MHz) and 4W UHF (438-470 MHz) frequency ranges. The radios have multimode narrow/wide channel operation, programmable channel bandwidth and 12.5/15kHz or 25/30kHz by channel. Also included are two-tone decode, programmable DTMF encoder and a variety of scan types geared to public

safety. The portable features a 10-character alphanumeric display.

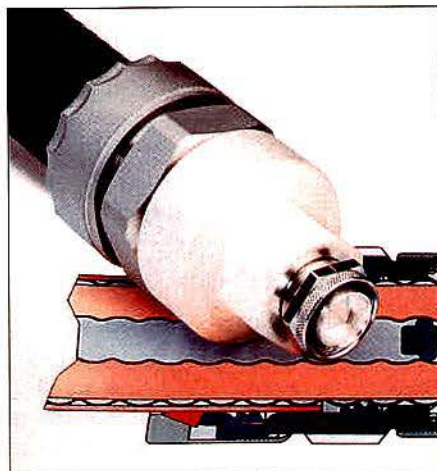
Circle (416) on Fast Fact Card



Base station communicates with local computer

RF Neulink's microprocessor-controlled base station, the Neulink 9600B, is offered in both the UHF and VHF ranges and is designed to communicate through its RS-232 port to a local computer or other intelligent host devices. The base station puts the data in a packet along with a packet identifier, a destination address and a 16-bit CRC. The packet is then sent over the air at 9,600bps to the remote network of Neulink 9600s. Over-the-air communications including error checking and correction, transmission retries, address verification and duplicate message checking are handled by the over-the-air protocol.

Circle (417) on Fast Fact Card



New connectors are designed for in-field installation

Huber+Suhner's Quick-fit connectors assemble quickly to 1 1/4" and 1 5/8" corrugated cables. The two-part design attaches to the cable with no special tools, and there are no loose piece parts. The failsafe assembly of the mechanical interconnects is suitable for operator in-field installations. Available in both 7/16 and type N interfaces, the connectors feature a triple-gasket design (corrugation, jacket and center conductor) that passes the IP 68 (IEC 529) standard for moisture resistance.

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Circle (72) on Fast Fact Card

Software offers GPS fleet management system

Trimble Navigation's FleetVision 3.0 software is a GPS fleet management program based on Windows 95 and NT platforms. Designed for use with Trimble's Crosscheck AMPS cellular mobile unit and Placer family of mobile positioning sensor products, the software is an economical mobile asset management tool that helps to increase driver safety, cargo security and to improve efficiency. As seamless middleware architecture for mobile data base station applications, FleetVision is suitable for operation as a communications platform for Windows application developers and system integrators. FleetVision can also be operated as a stand-alone fleet management package. The software's multiport communications controller is flexible, simultaneously supporting wireless network protocols such as circuit switched Advanced Mobile Phone Service (AMPS) cellular, Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) and Transparent. FleetVision manages two-way data messaging and voice traffic between the base and mobile units. The software includes features such as user-definable event/alarm configuration and reporting, remote control of digital output lines and simultaneous real-time.

Circle (419) on Fast Fact Card

Datalogger and controller feature on-board memory

Eagle Wireless International's OP/US Datalogger and OP/USI Controller possess on-board memory capable of storing pressure and flow data. The controller is designed to enhance production via plunger lift, intermittent gas lift and plunger assisted gas lift on gas wells and high GOR oil wells. The Datalogger retains multiple pressure, temperature and flow data. Both units are available with remote control via RF, cellular or satellite link.

Circle (420) on Fast Fact Card



Loop offers hands-free ear piece

Klein Electronics' K113 ear loop with boom microphone and in-line PTT button is for applications that require affordable, semi hands-free ear pieces. It is suitable for hotels, security staff and any radio rental fleet. The ear loop also swivels, so the user can wear it on the left or the right side of the head.

Circle (421) on Fast Fact Card

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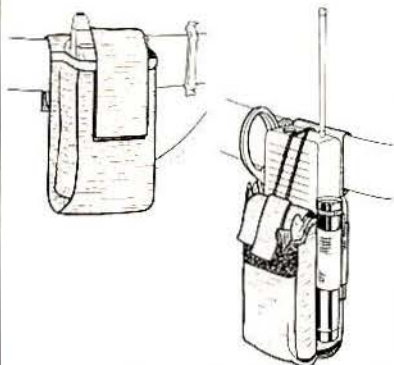
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Circle (74) on Fast Fact Card

Compact omni features modified front-to-side ratio

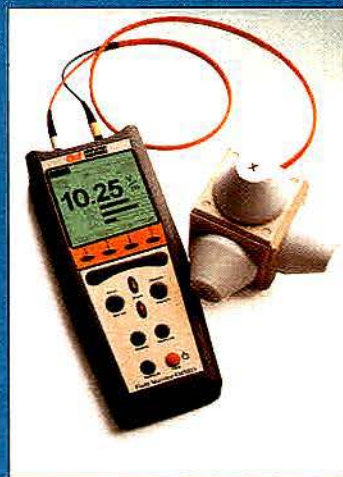


The DB810KRR(E)-XT from **Decibel Products** is a high-gain omnidirectional antenna with an oblong radiation pattern. It offers 13.5dBd gain in the main directions in a compact package with a flat-plate equivalent of 4 FT2. The antenna is compact because of the DB810K system combined with two reflector rods. Two aluminum rods mounted outside the antenna produce a forward-to-side ratio of 10dB. Designed for use in 806MHz-869MHz systems, this antenna offers a side-mount system for easy installation. The three-point, no-torsion mounting system prevents tilting under high-wind conditions.

Circle (422) on Fast Fact Card

Hand-held field monitor allows for choice of display

Amplifier Research's FM5501 is a portable, hand-held, single-probe E- and H- field monitoring instrument with display, control and alarm capabilities for field-related testing. The instrument accepts input from any one of eight AR isotropic probes sold to match the application and that connect to the monitor via fiber optic cable. Features include an RS-232 digital interface for remote operation; audible, user-selectable field strength; temperature, and low-battery alarms, and a graphic LCD, all of which are menu-driven and can be controlled from the front-panel or remotely. Users may choose to display readings from each axis of a three-axis probe, and a composite-axis reading simultaneously. Because the FM5501 recognizes each field probe, proper decimals and units are automatic.



Circle (423) on Fast Fact Card



Digital signal generators offer new options, waveform generator

The HP ESG-D series of digital signal generators from **Hewlett-Packard** provides a fully upgradeable, flexible signal generator to create an infinite number of signal types. Engineers can develop new systems more efficiently, test the limits of existing system components, and modify previously defined standards. The new options include the addition of CDMA and TDMA standards, a bit-error-rate (BER) analyzer and a dual-arbitrary waveform generator.

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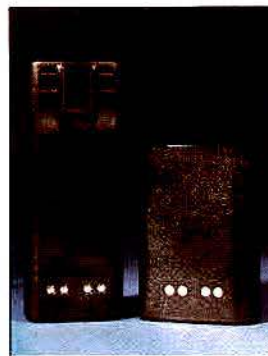
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WIRELESS SYSTEMS

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Batteries carry 18-month warranty



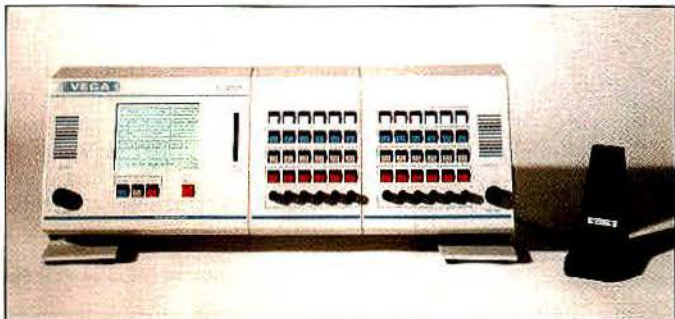
JBRO Batteries' two NiMH batteries provide extended run time and come with an 18-month non-prorated warranty. The JB-4013 is a high-capacity NiMH battery

rated at 7.5V and 2,100mAh. This is a replacement for the Motorola WPNN4013, which fits the MT2000, HT1000 and MTX8000 radios. This 6.08" x 2.35" x 0.99" new replacement is available as part number 1353. The JB-4595 NiMH is rated at 7.5V and 2,200mAh. The NiMH equivalent of the JB-4595 NiCd battery fits the Saber MX1000 radio. This 4.01" x 2.93" x 1.21" replacement is available as part number 1431.

Circle (425) on Fast Fact Card

Console offers touch-screen control, 24-line capacity

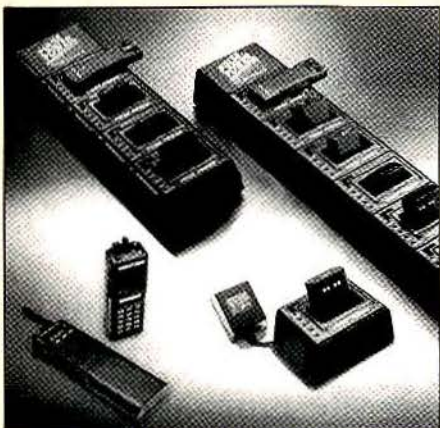
Model C-6124 radio control console from Vega has a touch screen and independent switches for line selection and instant PTT. It is a microprocessor-based multiline, crosspatch, desktop radio control console with a capacity to handle as many as 24 lines. Any line may be configured for either a dedicated two- or four-wire circuit, a dial-up access telephone circuit (identical to the C-550) or a full-duplex conventional PSTN telephone circuit. The flexible system offers TLM (sequential tone line modules) to allow the operator site selection for transmission, and DLM (dial-up access modules) that allow the operator to select a dial-up site for transmission.



Circle (426) on Fast Fact Card

Battery-charging system allows simultaneous charging of multiple battery types


Pulse Power's battery-charging system allows users to simultaneously charge multiple battery types on one platform. The "SM" modular battery charger features custom charging cups that match the shape, voltage and charging requirements of a variety of two-way battery models. The modular charger cups can be configured, on one platform and from one power source, to accommodate a two-way radio, cellular phone, laptop computer, camcorder, power tools, or any system using portable NiCd or NiMH batteries. The average charging time is about one hour and includes the elimination of "memory effect."



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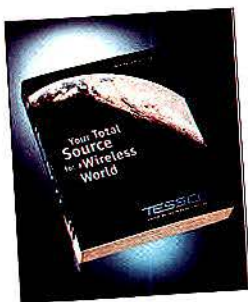
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Circle (451) on Fast Fact Card

Catalog features line of test instruments

Marconi Instruments' 1997/98 *Test and Measurement Catalog* features the line of test instruments for RF and microwave products. This catalog offers an updated selection of Marconi's signal sources, radio test sets and microwave and RF analyzers.

Circle (452) on Fast Fact Card

Booklet features coaxial connector information

Huber+Suhner presents the new edition of the *RF Connector Guide Booklet* featuring technical information about its line of coaxial connectors. The guide describes basic RF theory, materials and platings, connector and cable design and test measurements, including passive intermodulation. A selection of relevant formulas is also attached. The booklet can stand alone as a handy reference, but also complements the *Suhner Coaxial Connector General Catalogue*.

Circle (453) on Fast Fact Card

Web site renovated for easier-to-navigate format

Noise Com, a manufacturer and supplier of wireless test equipment, has overhauled its Web site to deliver more information in an easier-to-navigate format. Located at www.noisecom.com, the new site features a sophisticated, database-driven construction that allows dynamic, real-time update of information as soon as it becomes available. The new format enables customers to find technical specifications on all Noise Com test systems and components. Also available on the site are application notes, product FAQs, career opportunities and news coverage. The site is designed for viewing in Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.

Circle (454) on Fast Fact Card

Catalog offers portable radio accessories

Earmark has released its *Accessories for Portable Radios Catalog*. The color catalog provides graphic, textual and specification information for Earmark's complete range of accessories. Learn more about how to stay in communication with tactical teams. Emphasizing multiple capabilities for in-mask operations, the catalog identifies communications accessories for both level A and level B protective equipment. The catalog shows how the ESMH aids in providing improved communications for portable radio users by providing direct access. Each headphone is vividly displayed in its own color photograph. The accompanying text details the benefits and features of each and explains the specialized task where they might be used.

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Circle (59) on Fast Fact Card

people



Wardner



Flowers



Norling



Cochran

Changes at Pyramid Communications, Huntington Beach, CA:

Paul A. Wardner, applications engineer at Standard Communications, Los Angeles, joins Pyramid Communications as director of new technology for mobile data, SCADA and OEM radio modules. **Craig Flowers**, financial analyst at Silicon Systems, Tustin, CA, joins Pyramid as production manager of manufactured products.

James Norling, member of the Newmar sales staff where he served as advertising manager, advances to marketing communications manager at Newmar, Newport Beach, CA.

Gary Cochran, after nearly five years as Midwest region sales manager for Kenwood Communications, Long Beach, CA, moves to marketing manager for Kenwood's land mobile radio products group.

Changes at Advanced Charger Technology, Atlanta:

Graydon Hansen, product development manager at AER Energy Resources, Smyrna, GA, joins ACT as director, lead acid chargers. **Cathy Hellming** departs National Data, Atlanta, as vice president, finance, to join ACT as chief financial officer.

David A. Rosi, president of EnergyVision LLC, Burlington, MA, advances to vice president, marketing for Cerulean Technology, Marlborough, MA.

Ed Muldoon moves to national sales manager at Empower Geographics, Des Plaines, IL, after leaving his position as an account executive for graphic user interface software for the IBM AS/400 at Seagull Software Systems, Chicago.

David Hatch advances to North American sales manager for Gabriel Electronics, Scarborough, ME, from his former position as sales support manager for the company.

Michael R. Fenn director, operations for National Dispatch Center, San Diego, CA, moves to executive director, operations.

Promotions at the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC:

Dale N. Hatfield, chief technologist for the commission, advances to chief of the commission's Office of Engineering and Technology. **Rebecca L. Dorch**, deputy chief of the competition division in the office of general counsel, moves to deputy chief of the commission's Office of Engineering and Technology.

Kevin Niemi joins Metapath Software, Jersey City, NJ, as vice president of engineering after leaving his position as senior vice president of engineering for AccessLine Technologies, Bellevue, WA.

Joel Spina moves to vice president of international sales for Repeater Technologies, Sunnyvale, CA, after leaving the same position at CommScope, Hickory, NC.

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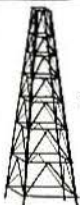
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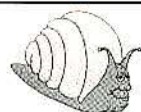
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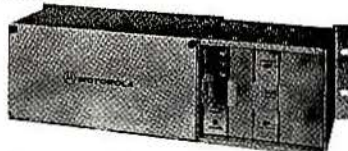
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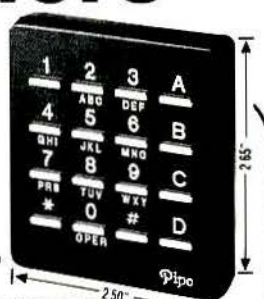
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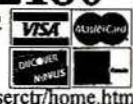
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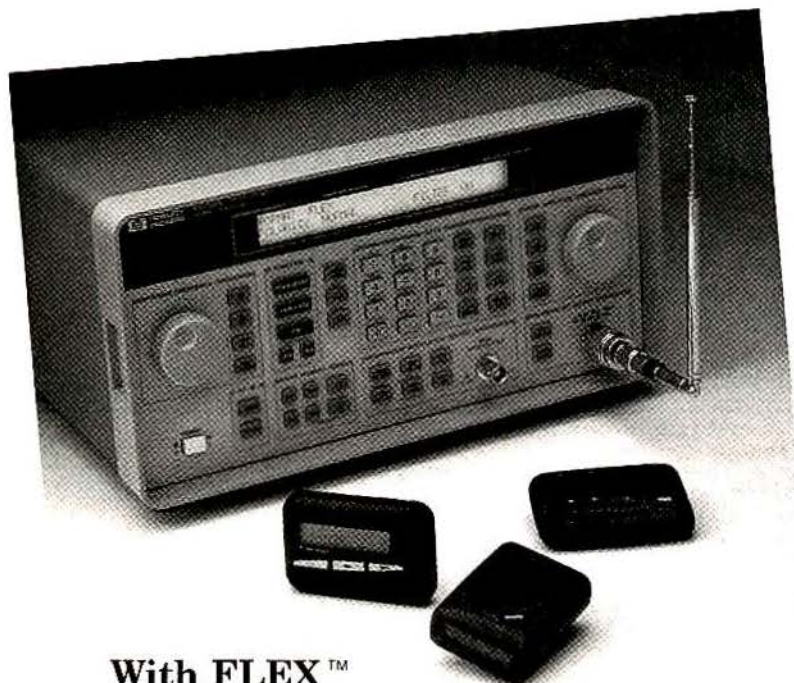
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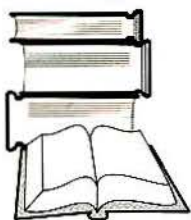
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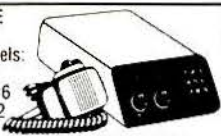
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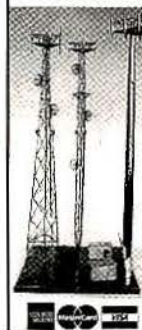
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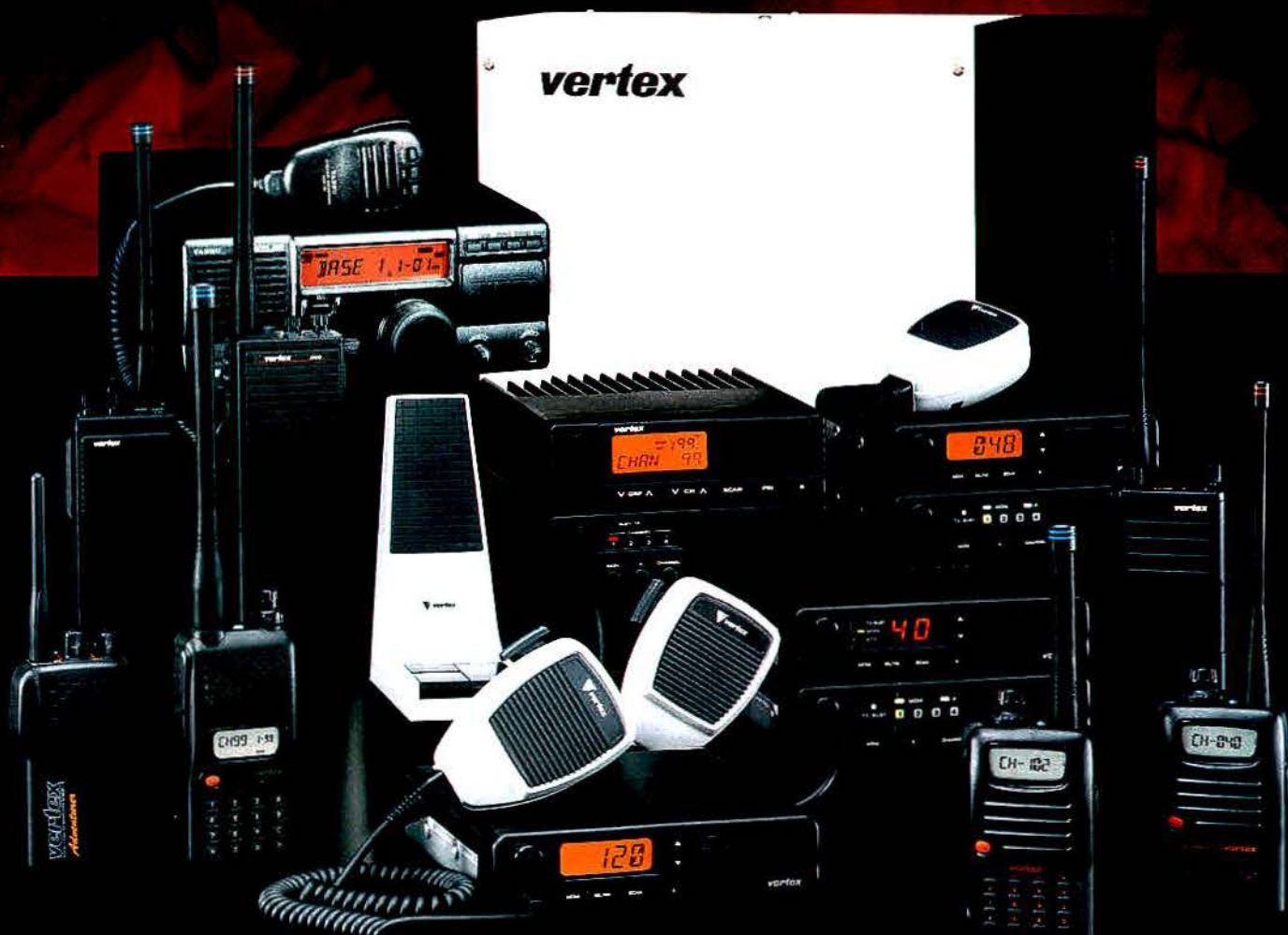
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